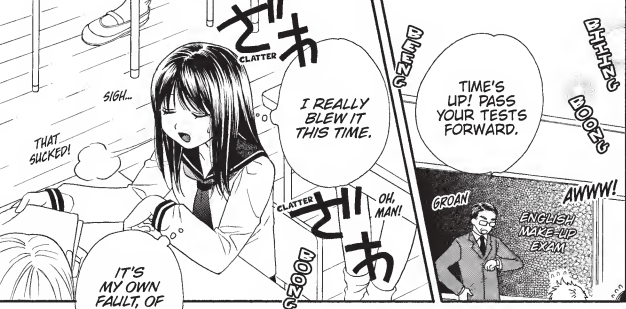




GIRL FRIENDS

[1]

Story & Art by yuri icon MILK MORINAGA



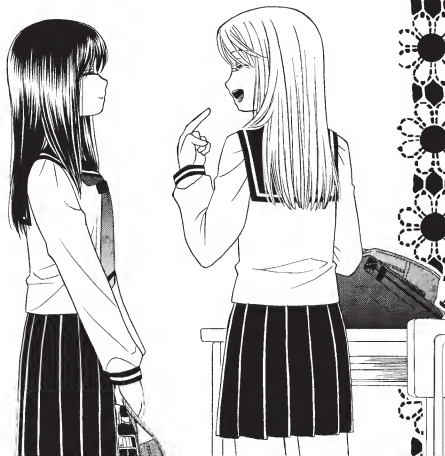
WE'VE
BEEN IN
THE SAME
CLASS
FOR THE
PAST TWO
TERMS...

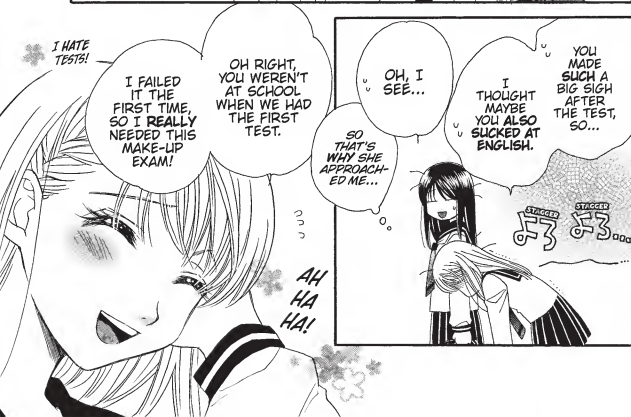
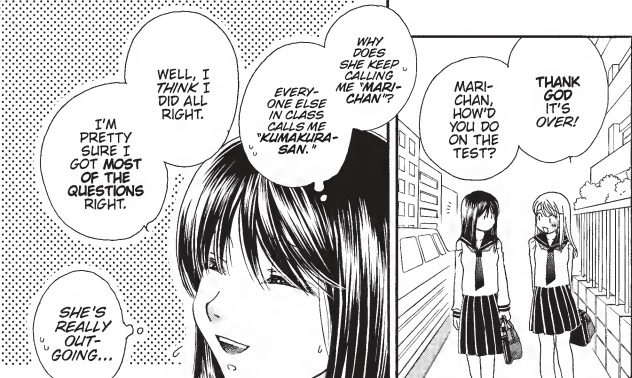
BUT
THIS IS
THE FIRST
TIME WE'VE
ACTUALLY
TALKED
TO EACH
OTHER.

YEAH,
I DO!

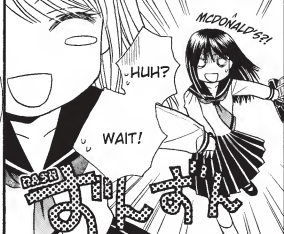
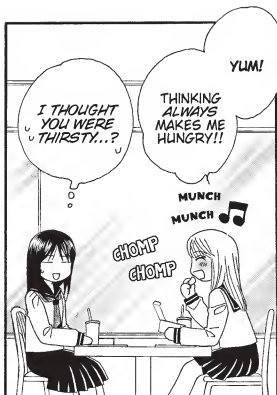
PLEASE
CALL ME
"AKKO"!

[CHAPTER 1]









SORRY TO
SCARE YOU.

BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP

MARI-
CHAN,
YOUR
HAIR IS
SOOO
PRETTY!

SO
SMOOTH
AND
SILKY!

SHE
STARTLED
ME!

はいっ
あー

WHOA!

Y-YES,
IT IS!

WHY?

I'VE
BEEN
JEALOUS
OF YOUR
HAIR FOR
A LONG
TIME.

TO TELL
YOU THE
TRUTH...

I USE
THIS
LOTION...

...

B-BUT,
OHASHI-SAN,
YOU HAVE
STRAIGHT
HAIR, TOO.

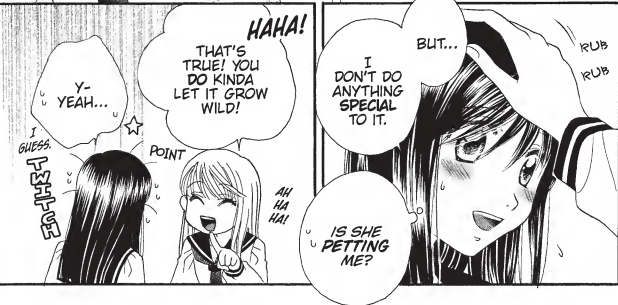
?

SIGH...

?

C'MERE!

KEEP THIS
BETWEEN
US, BUT...

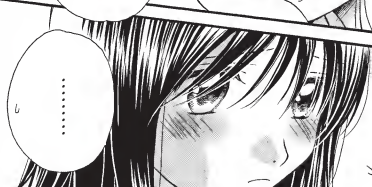




WHERE
DO YOU
GET YOUR
HAIR CUT?

WHY
DON'T YOU
DO ANYTHING
WITH YOUR
HAIR? THERE
ARE LOTS OF
GOOD SALONS
YOU COULD
GO TO.

THERE
ARE SO
MANY CUTE
STYLES YOU
COULD TRY!



.....



I'M
GETTING
OUT OF
HERE.

STAND

WELL,
THANKS
FOR
THE MC-
NUGGETS...

.....

.....

OH...

I GET
MY HAIR
TRIMMED...

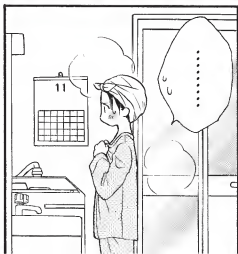
AT THE
SALON
MY MOM
GOES
TO.

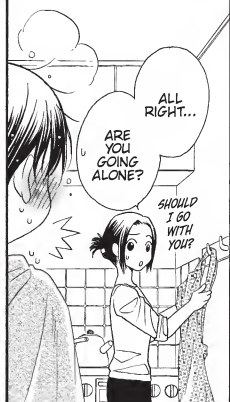
I
KNOW!



♪

LET'S GET
OUR HAIR CUT
TOGETHER!











I DIDN'T
KNOW
YOU WORE
CASUAL
CLOTHES,
MARI-CHAN.

WOW!

WELL,
SURE...

I'VE BEEN
WEARING
THIS OUTFIT
SINCE
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL.

IT WAS
THE BEST
I COULD
DO...

YOU'RE
SO CUTE!!



WHAT?

IS IT THAT
BAD?

HEE
HEE.



HA HA!
I'M
HAPPY!
THAT'S ALL!

I WAS
AFRAID YOU
ONLY HUNG
OUT WITH
OTHER
SMART
GIRLS.



I
KNOW!

NO!
THAT'S
NOT--

THAT'S
WHY I'M
HAPPY!
♡

C'MON!
THE
SALON'S
THIS
WAY!



I WAS
REALLY
AFRAID...

THAT
YOU
DIDN'T
LIKE
GIRLS
LIKE
ME.



COMPARED
TO THEM,
I MUST
SEEM SO
LOUD AND
DUMB.



GOSH...

I JUST
DON'T GET
OHASHI-
SAN.



BUT
HERE
SHE IS,
SPENDING
HER
SUNDAY
WITH ME.



SHE'S
POPULAR AT
SCHOOL...

AND SHE
PROBABLY
HAS A BOY-
FRIEND...



SINCE WHEN...?

YEP! WE'RE REALLY CLOSE!

IT'S SO CUTE WHEN FRIENDS GET THEIR HAIRCUT TOGETHER!

OOOH!

DID YOU BRING A CLASSMATE, AKKO-CHAN?

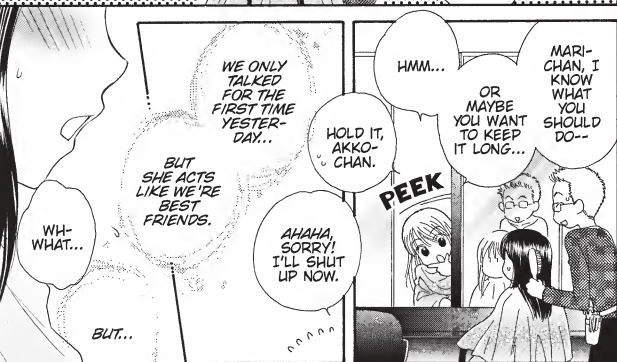


HOW DO YOU WANT IT CUT?

ERR... UMM... WELL...

YOUR HAIR IS ABSOLUTELY GORGEOUS.

HELLO, MARI-CHAN! NICE TO MEET YOU.



WE ONLY TALKED FOR THE FIRST TIME YESTERDAY...

BUT SHE ACTS LIKE WE'RE BEST FRIENDS.

WH-WHAT...

BUT...

HOLD IT, AKKO-CHAN.

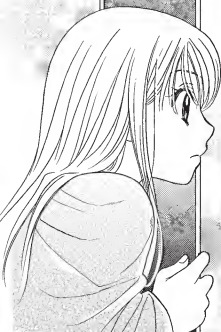
AHAHA, SORRY! I'LL SHUT UP NOW.

HMM...

OR MAYBE YOU WANT TO KEEP IT LONG...

MARI-CHAN, I KNOW WHAT YOU SHOULD DO--

PEEK



WHAT
EXACTLY...

DID YOU
HAVE IN
MIND,
AKKO-
CHAN?



MAYBE
HER
BRASH-
NESS...

FIRST
OFF,
DO HER
BANGS
LIKE
THIS...

ARE
YOU
SURE?

THANK
YOU



SERI-
OUSLY?!
FOR
REAL?!

PLEASE...



I DON'T
KNOW MUCH
ABOUT HAIR-
STYLES...

SO
JUST DO
WHAT SHE
SAYS.



FLUFF

HERE
YOU
GO!

ALL
DONE.

IS
RUBBLING
OFF ON
ME.

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?

.....

BUT I
THOUGHT
OHASHI-
SAN LIKED
LONG,
STRAIGHT
HAIR...

UNLESS...

DOES
IT LOOK
WEIRD?

I-
ISN'T
IT TOO
SHORT,
THOUGH?

UH,
YEAH, IT
DOES.

IT'S
LIGHT,
ALL
RIGHT...

DOES
YOUR
HAIR
FEEL
LIGHT-
ER?

HERE'S
THE BACK
OF IT.

MAYBE SHE
ACTUALLY
HATES ME...?

WAS
THIS JUST
A MEAN
PRANK?!

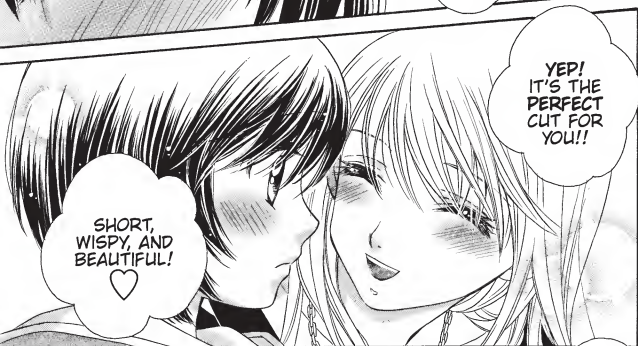
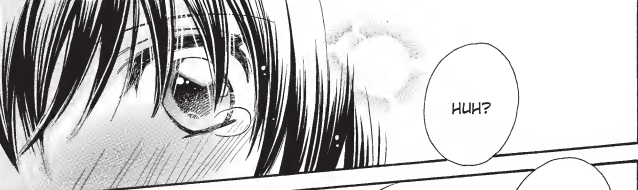
IT ALL
MAKES
SENSE
NOW...

UH, DO
YOU NOT
"LIKE IT?"

OH MY
GOSH!!

WAS
THIS...





SHORT,
WISPY, AND
BEAUTIFUL!

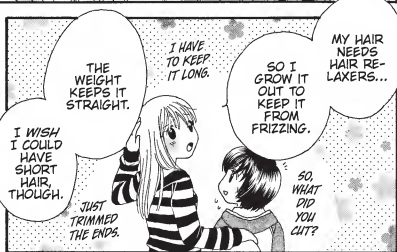


YEP!
IT'S THE
PERFECT
CUT FOR
YOU!!



YOU
REALLY--

AND
YOU
KNOW
WHAT?!



THE
WEIGHT
KEEPS IT
STRAIGHT.

I HAVE
TO KEEP
IT LONG.

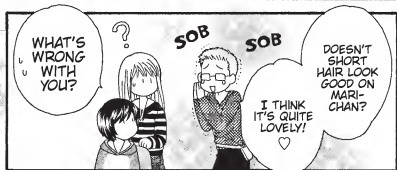
SO I
GROW IT
OUT TO
KEEP IT
FROM
FRIZZING.

MY HAIR
NEEDS
HAIR RE-
LAXERS...

I WISH
I COULD
HAVE
SHORT
HAIR,
THOUGH.

JUST
TRIMMED
THE ENDS.

SO,
WHAT
DID YOU
CUT?



WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH
YOU?



SOB

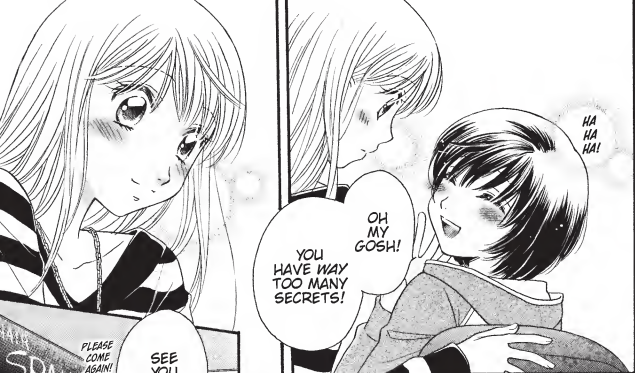
SOB

DOESN'T
SHORT
HAIR LOOK
GOOD ON
MARI-
CHAN?

I THINK
IT'S QUITE
LOVELY!







YOU
HAVE WAY
TOO MANY
SECRETS!

OH
MY
GOSH!

HA
HA
HA!

PLEASE
COME
AGAIN!

SPANKY

SEE
YOU
LATER,
GIRLS!



SURE!

BUT...

MARI-
CHAN, WANNA
GRAB A DRINK
BEFORE HEAD-
ING HOME?

JEEZ, I'M
THIRSTY!

SPANI
MENU

I DO FEEL
LIGHTER...

BUT
NOT JUST
BECAUSE
OF THE
HAIRCUT...

YOU
READ
MY
MIND!

WE MAY
AS WELL GET
SOMETHING
TO EAT AS
WELL.

IF WE'RE
GOING TO
HAVE A
DRINK...

ALL RIGHT,
LET'S GO
TO MC-
DONALD'S!

YIKES.

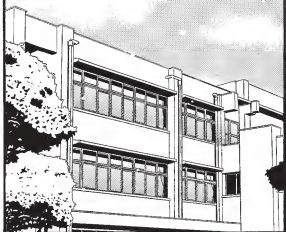
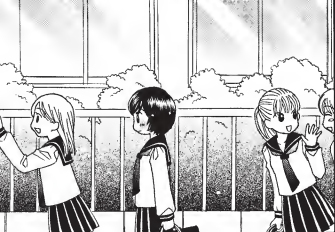
MC-
DONALD'S
AGAIN?

KYA!

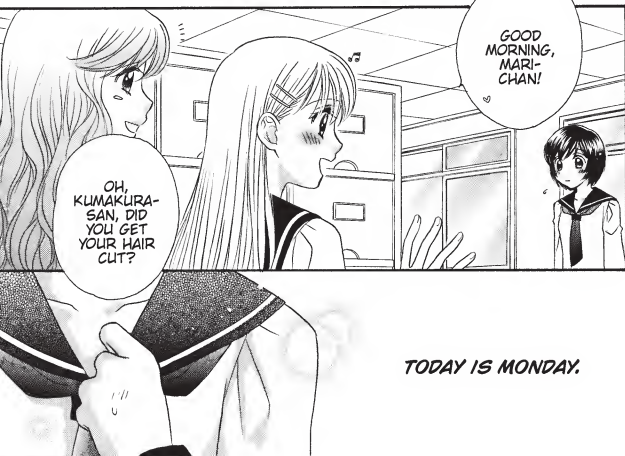
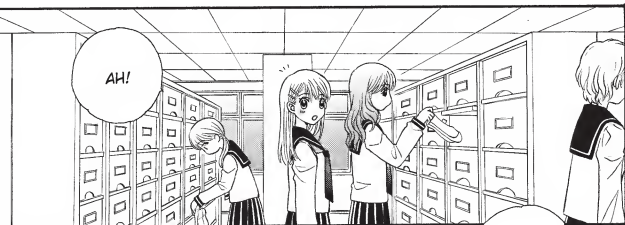




**TWO DAYS AGO ON SATURDAY,
I HAD TO TAKE A MAKE-UP EXAM.**



YESTERDAY WAS SUNDAY. LAST NIGHT I COULDN'T SLEEP AT ALL.



TODAY IS MONDAY.

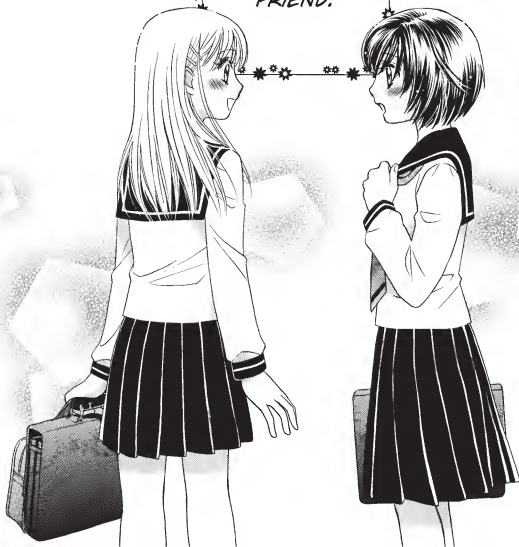
**I CAN FEEL
THE WIND ON
MY NECK.
IT'S NICE.**

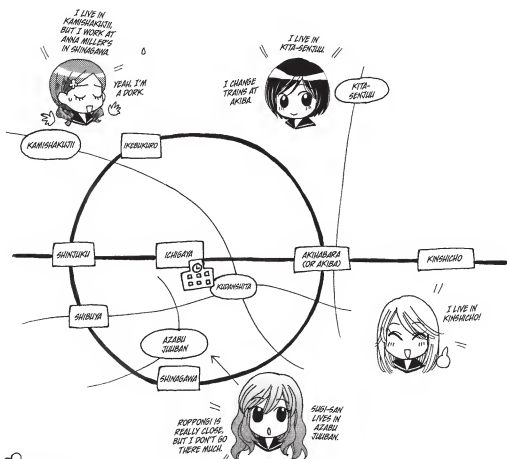
GOOD...



**AND NOW
I KNOW
WHAT IT'S
LIKE TO
HAVE A
FRIEND.**

GOOD
MORNING,
AKKO-
CHAN!





SCHOOL
ROUTES

GIRL FRIENDS — ガールフレンズ —

CRAZY!

NO WAY!
THEY'RE
TOO
HEAVY!

WELL....
YEAH.
DON'T YOU
BRING THEM
HOME EVERY
DAY, AKKO-
CHAN?

ENT?
MARI-
CHAN,
ARE YOU
TAKING
ALL YOUR
TEXTBOOKS
WITH YOU?

I LEAVE
THEM IN
THE DESK
OR MY
LOCKER.

STUFF

STUFF

HEY,
MARI-
CHAN!

LET'S
GO HOME
TOGETHER!

NOW,
NOW...

AND IT'S
HARD TO
CARRY
WHEN
IT'S
FULL.

I DON'T
WANT TO
RUIN MY
BAG.

OH,
GIVE ME
A BREAK!
YOU GUYS
LEAVE YOUR
BOOKS AT
SCHOOL
TOO!

MY
BAG'S
PACKED
TIGHT!

UN-
LIKE YOU,
MARI-CHAN
ACTUALLY
STUDIES
AT HOME!

NOT
EVERY-
ONE'S
AS LAZY
AS YOU,
AKKO!

FORGET
ABOUT THEM.
LET'S GO!

WHAT IF
THERE'S AN
EMERGENCY??

PACKED
TIGHT WITH
MANGA JAMA-
NIN. DO YOU
REALLY NEED
ALL THOSE?

AN
EMER-
GENCY?
LIKE
WHAT?

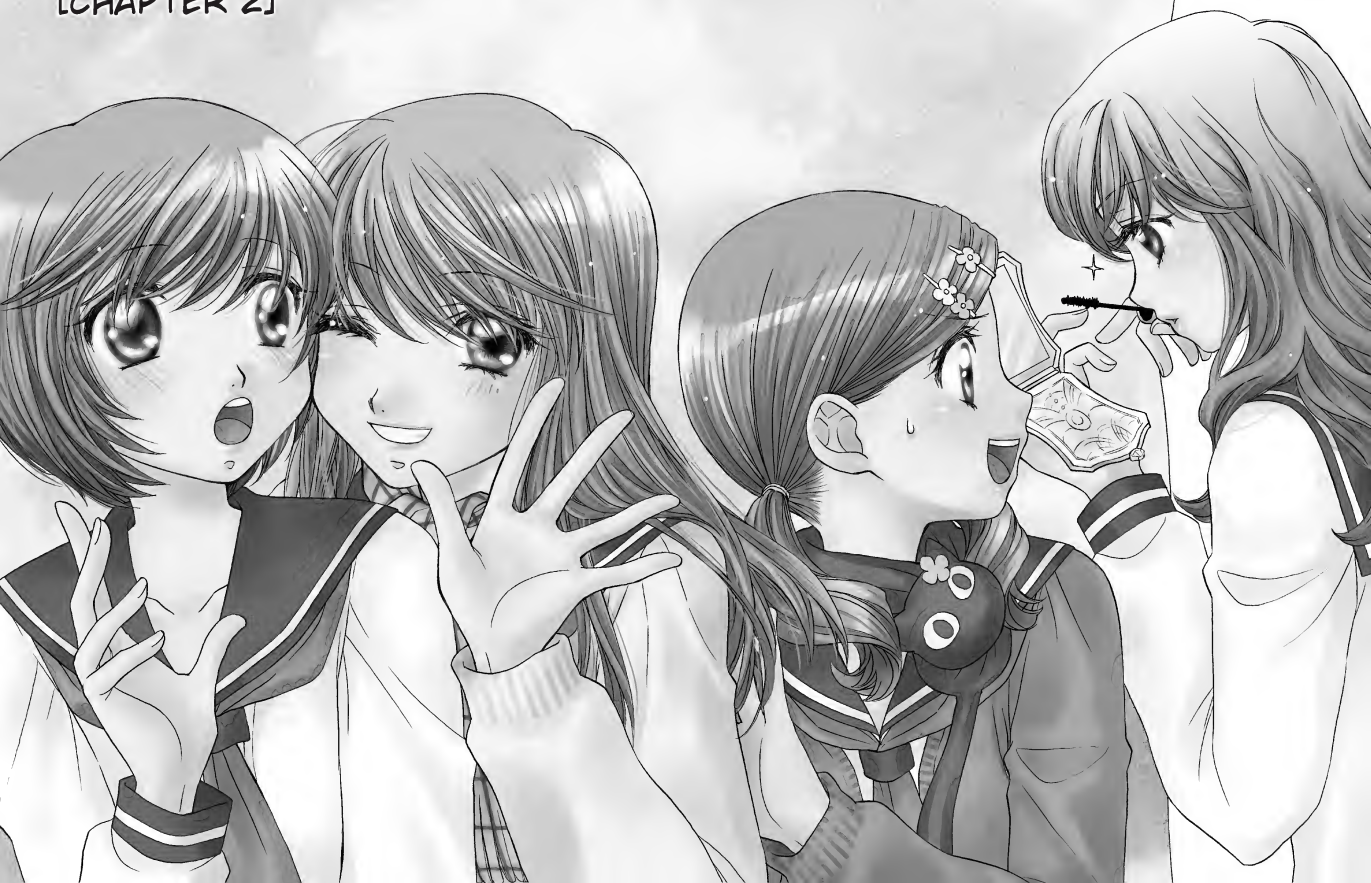
LIKE
IF I NEED
SOMETHING TO
READ

THEY
ARE
HEAVY.

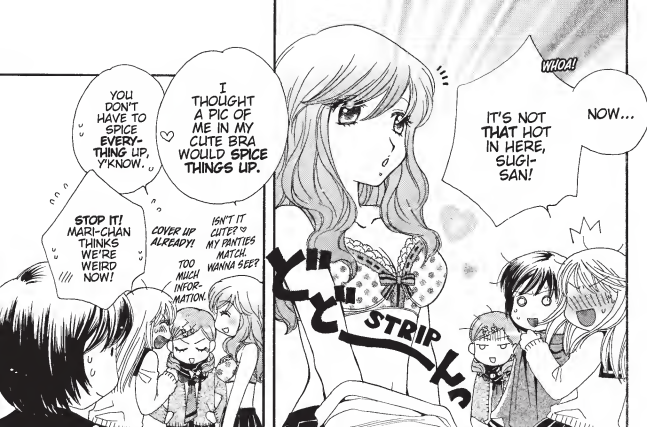
OKAY...

POOR!

[CHAPTER 2]









CHATTER CHATTER
あいあい

HOW ABOUT...

SHOULD WE DO CANDID SHOTS?

SHE'S NOT READY FOR IT!

NOPE!

YEAH, WE'LL JUST ZOOM IN.

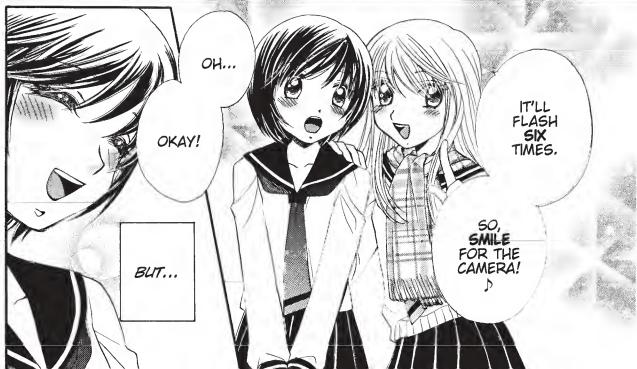
SINCE THERE'S FOUR OF US...

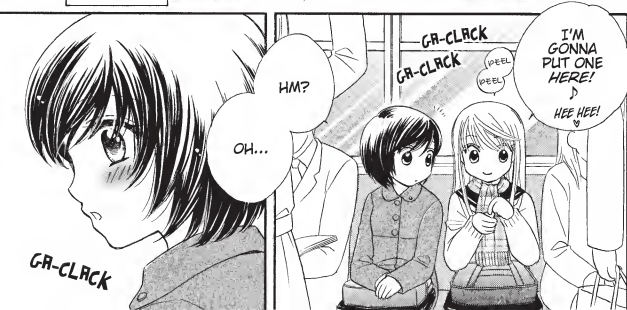
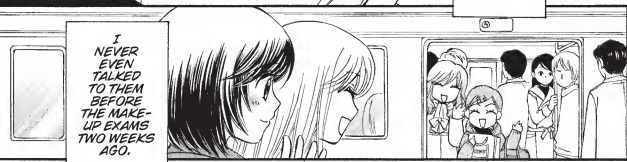
NO NEED FOR SCREEN SHOTS?

HEY!

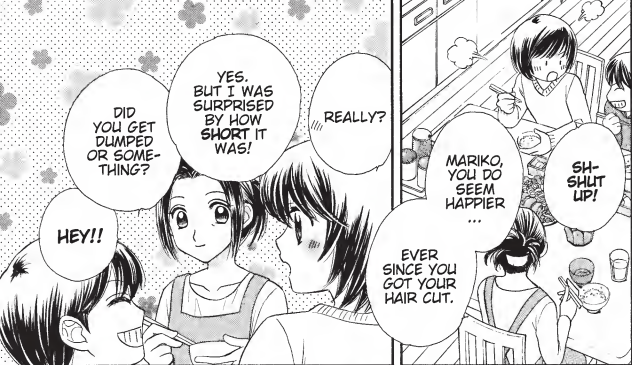
WHAT SIZE SHOULD WE GET?

I'VE STARTED SPENDING MORE TIME WITH THESE GIRLS.











PERFECT.
♪

THOSE
SAME
WORDS...

MEAN
SO MUCH
MORE TO
ME...

WHEN
AKKO-
CHAN
SAYS
THEM.

STICK

PEEL
PEEL



!



WH-
WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?!



WHAT?

SHE
WANTS
WHAT?



I
WONDER
WHAT'S
UP.

OH, IT'S
FROM
AKKO-
CHAN!

TAP
TAP



カ
CLITTER

EAT
LUNCH
WITH
US!

MARI-
CHAN,
C'MERE!

OH...

WAVE
WAVE

UM,
SURE.



CLITTER
カ
カ
CLITTER
カ

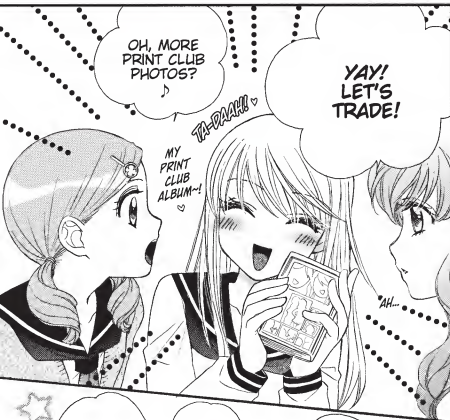
I
BROUGHT
THE STUFF
SHE ASKED
FOR LAST
NIGHT,
BUT...

I
DID
IT.

BING
BOONG

SLIGH...

BING
BOONG



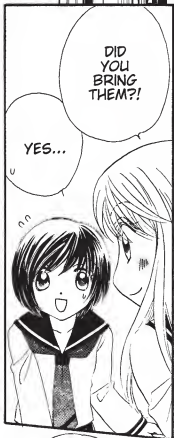
OH, MORE
PRINT CLUB
PHOTOS?

MY PRINT
CLUB
ALBUM~!

TA-DA!!!

YAY!
LET'S
TRADE!

AH...



DID
YOU
BRING
THEM?!

YES...



OH!
AND
THIS
ONE!

UH...

THIS
ONE'S CUTE,
DON'T YOU
THINK?

OH, YOU
CAN HAVE
THESE, TOO!

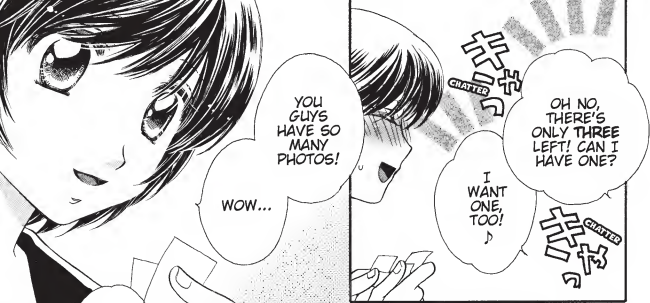
HERE.
TAKE
THIS ONE.

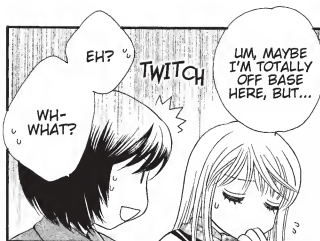
AH...

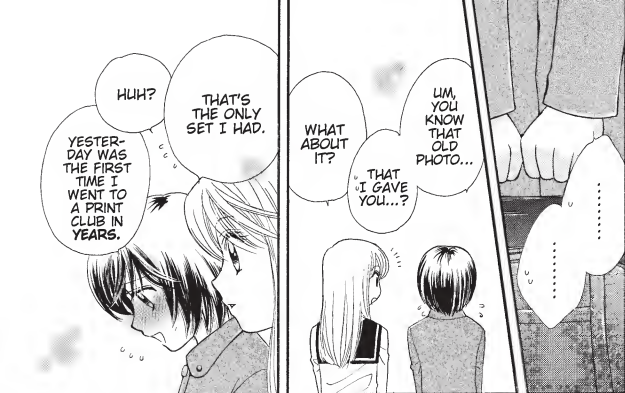


YOU'RE
SOOOO
CUTE!!

OH
MY
GOD!!









EVERYONE
ELSE HAD
SO MANY
PHOTOS...

YOU ALL
LOOKED SO
CUTE AND
HAPPY...

AND
YOUR
OUTFITS
WERE ALL
SO
PRETTY.

SMO

OGII

TAMAMI AKIKO

ME,
THOUGH?
I REALLY
DON'T KNOW
MUCH ABOUT
FASHION.

I
JUST
GOT
LUCKY
THAT
DAY.

WOW...

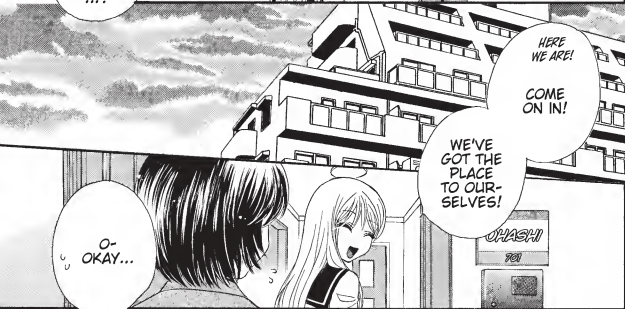
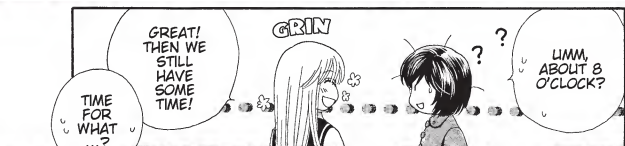
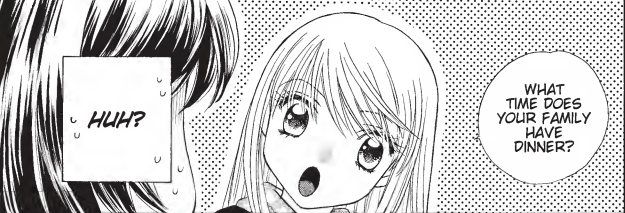
I WAS
SO HAPPY
WHEN YOU
SAID MY
CASUAL
CLOTHES
WERE CLUTE,
BUT...

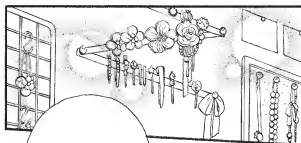
HM?

MARI-
CHAN...

I SOUND
LIKE A TOTAL
DORK.

JUST
DON'T
CRY.





THIS PLACE
LOOKS LIKE
A LITTLE
BOUTIQUE.



EVERY-
THING'S
SO CUTE.



THIS
AND
THIS...

WE'RE
GONNA TRY
ON SOME
OUTFITS.
PICK ONE,
MARI-CHAN!

WHAT?!

HUH?
WHY
?!

アホ

WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING?

OH,
THIS
DRESS
MIGHT
WORK!

アホ



AND TAKE
A TON OF
PRINT CLUB
PHOTOS!



WE'RE
GOING TO
WEAR
PRETTY
CLOTHES...



AKKO-
CHAN...

OKAY?



STOP!!
I'LL
DRESS
MY-
SELF!!

BEEK!

THEN
LET ME
HELP!



BUT... I'M
NOT EVEN
SURE I
CAN WEAR
THIS...



UH...

HOW
DO I
LOOK?

IT...

LEMME
SEE...

SHE'S
NOT
LISTEN-
ING...

THE
SKIRT'S
A LITTLE
SHORT...

IT'S
CUTE!

IT'S
SO
YU!!

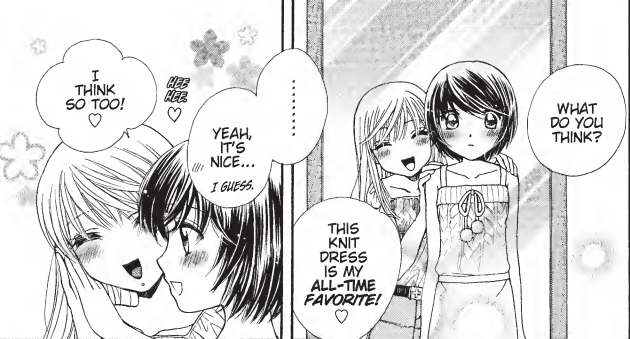
OH
WOW!
♥

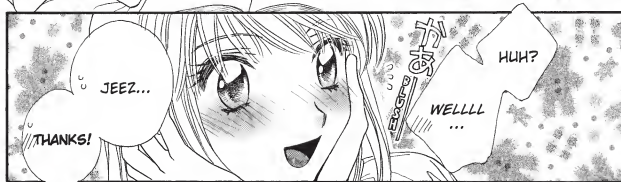
♥
TRY
THESE
TOO!!
♥

HOW
ABOUT
THIS...

OR
THIS...

AND
THIS!
♥







I DON'T
HAVE
ANY PINK
CLOTHES,
SO I'LL
NEED
TO BUY
SOME.

AND
A FEW
DRESSES,
MINI-
SKIRTS...

AKKO-CHAN,
YOU LIKE TO
WEAR PINK,
RIGHT?

YEAH...

AND
THOSE
BOOTS
YOU LIKE
TO WEAR.

.....



WHAT
IS IT,
AKKO-
CHAN--

.....?

I'LL
JUST
GET
USED
TO IT.

I DON'T
USUALLY
WEAR
MINI-
SKIRTS,
BUT...

OKAY!
I'VE GOT
MY LIST!





I PLAY WITH MY
CELL PHONE DURING
TRAIN RIDES.

I TEXT, SURF
THE NET, AND
PLAY GAMES.

GIRL FRIENDS — ガールフレンズ —

[CHAPTER 3]



CREAK

MARI-
CHAN...

I'M SO
SORRY...



I
DIDN'T
KNOW
WHY
AKKO-
CHAN
WAS
APOLO-
GIZING...

I...

THOUGH,
I DID
WONDER...

...WHY
SHE HAD
PUSHED
ME DOWN
ON HER
BED AND
PULLED
OFF MY
CLOTHES...

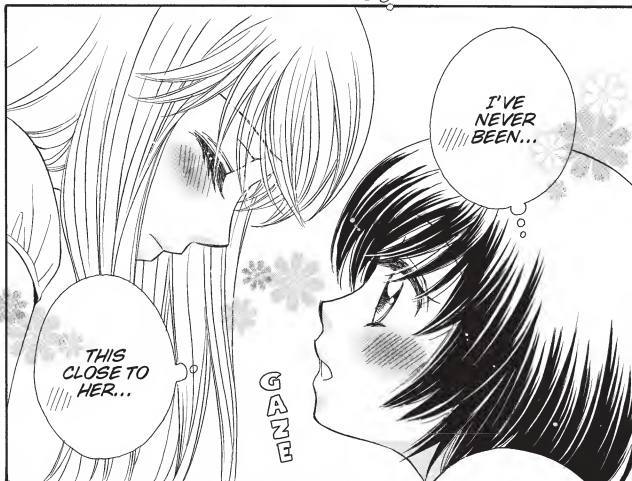
GOSH...

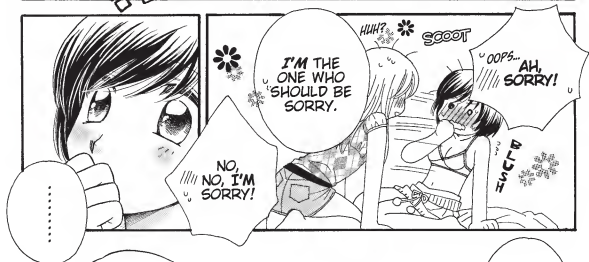
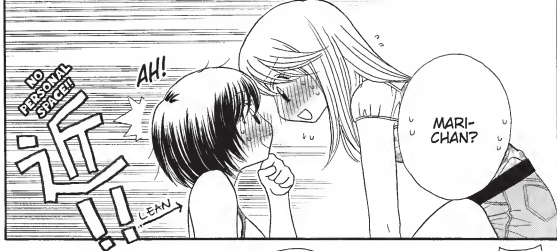
BUT...



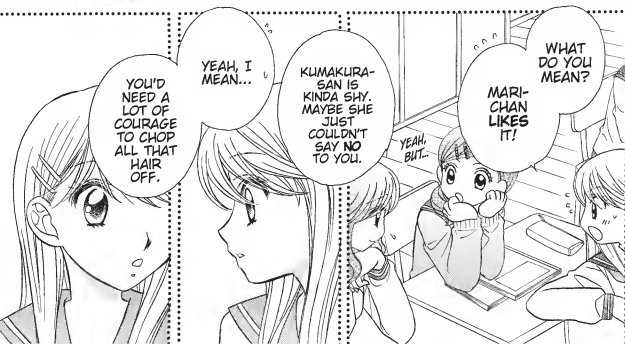
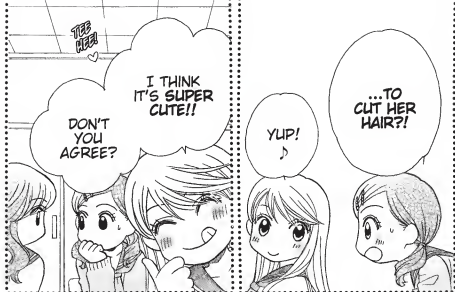
PRETTY
EYE-
LASHES.

SHE
HAS
SUCH...











I
GOT TOO
PUSHY...

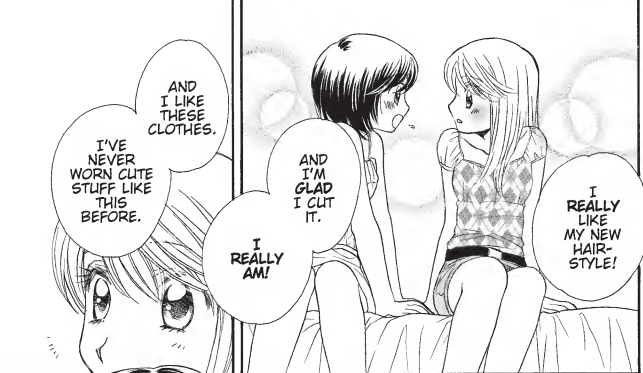
AND
MADE
YOU DO
SOMETHING
YOU DIDN'T
WANT TO.

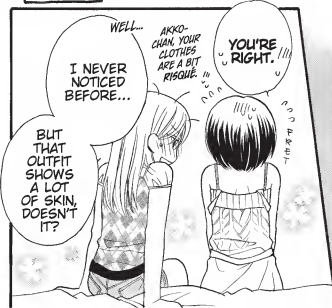
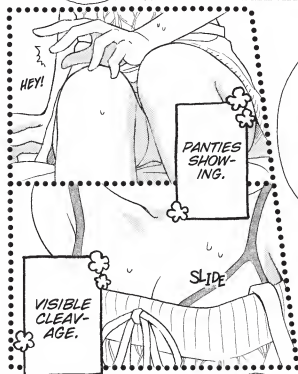
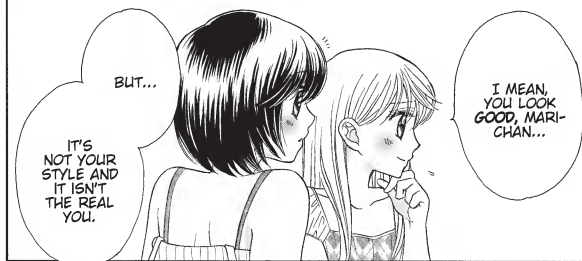
AND
THEN I
DID IT
AGAIN
TODAY...

NO!

YOU
DIDN'T!

BUT...







SO,
UM...

MARI-
CHAN, WHAT
KIND OF
CLOTHES
DO YOU
WANNA
WEAR?

HUH?

WHAT
DO YOU
LIKE?



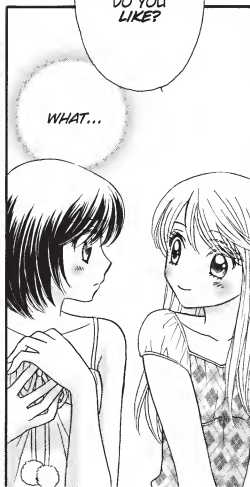
OKAY!

I'VE
GOT
AN
IDEA.

HMM,
LET'S
THINK...



WHAT I
LIKE...?



WHAT...



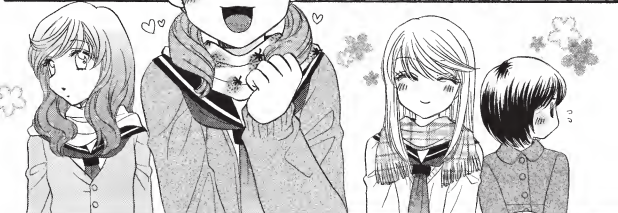
SHOPPING~!



IT'S BEEN
5000 LONG!

YAY!

SATUR-
DAY,
AFTER
SCHOOL.



WE'LL
WAIT
FOR THE
SALES!!

SALES?
ON
WHAT?



GOSH,
YOU'RE
MEAN...

I'M NOT
BUYING
MANGA
TODAY!

LET'S
GO TO
THE
MANGA
SHOP
LAST.

SO...
WHERE
TO
FIRST?



YOU
CAN
SPLURGE
IF YOU
WANT.

I'M
JUST
WINDOW
SHOPPING
TODAY.

JUST
LOOK-
ING?

YUP.

OH
RIGHT,
I'M
JUST
LOOKING
TOO.

OH...



OH
THAT

MINE
FUJIKO!!

NAUGHTY!

I HAVE
ONE AT
HOME.

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?

THERE
ARE A LOT
OF CUTE
WINTER
CLOTHES...

SO
MANY
TEMPTING
OUTFITS.

SUGI-SAN
LIKES
TO SHOW
OFF HER
LEGS.

MAYBE
THIS WILL
BE ON SALE
NEXT TIME.

I GUESS
I'LL PASS
TODAY.

TOO
CUTE
FOR
ME.

SHE HAS
HER EYES
IT'S ON THAT
CUTE. ONE.



OH.
IS
THAT
RIGHT?

AND WE'RE
GOING TO GO
TO ALLLL THE
STORES!!

YEAH,
WE'RE
GONNA
TRY ON
AS MUCH
STUFF
AS WE
CAN!

BUT I
WANNA BUY
THEM ALL!

READY?!

WOO-
HOO!

NEXT IS
PARCO!!

I'D
LIKE
AN
ICED
TEA!!

TOO
MANY CUTE
CLOTHES...

SO HARD
TO CHOOSE.

I'M POOPED
FROM ALL THAT
WALKING.

BUT
FIRST,
LUNCH!

WHERE
SHOULD
WE GO
NEXT?

WELL,
ACTUALLY
I...

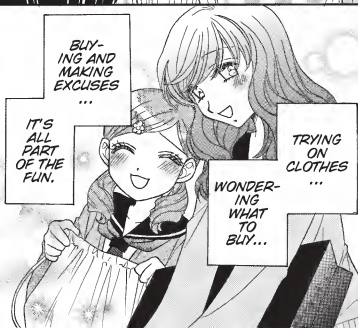
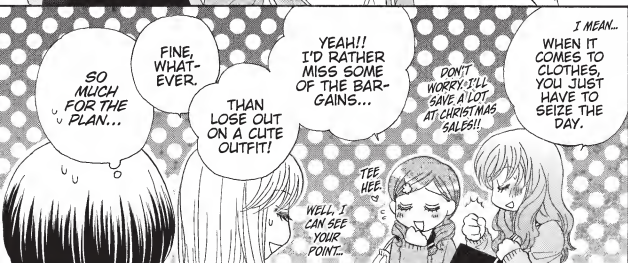
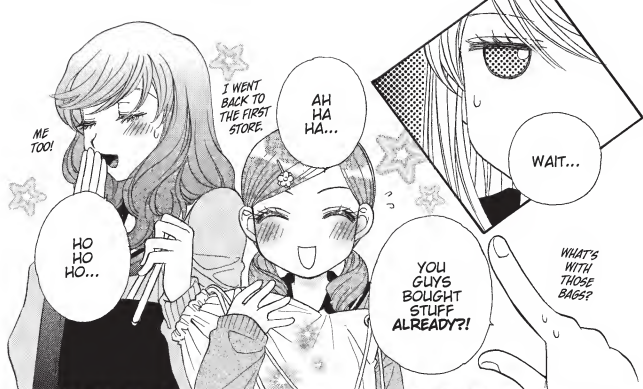
UHH,
RIGHT,
ME
TOO...

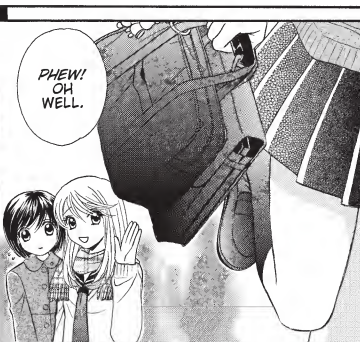
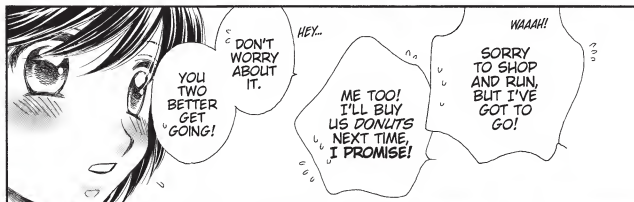
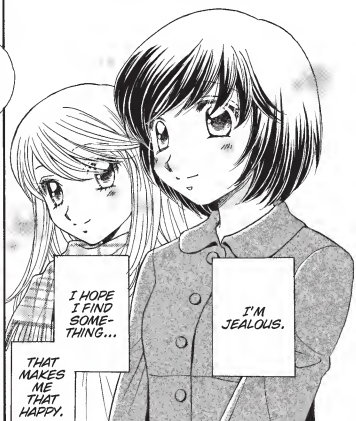
STAND

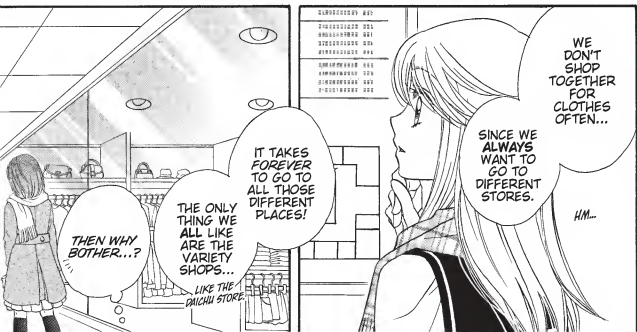
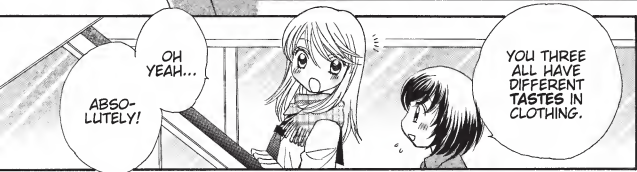
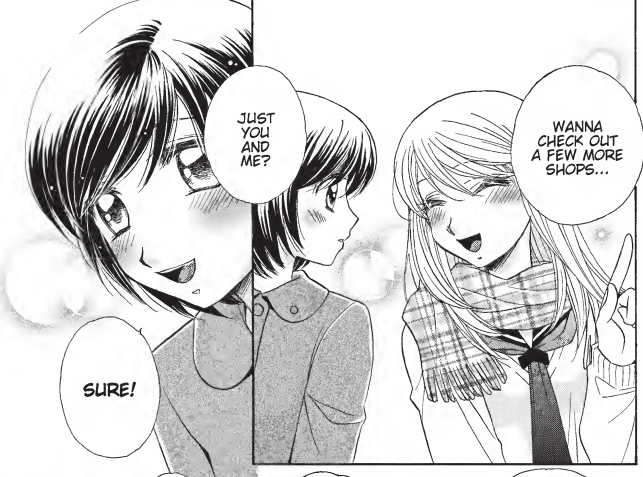
STAND

UHH?

HHMM...









BY THE WAY, NOW THAT WE'VE LOOKED AT A BUNCH OF DIFFERENT STORES...

IT'S A CHANCE TO TRY CLOTHES I DON'T USUALLY WEAR.

BUT IT'S FUN TO SHOP WITH THEM SOME-TIMES.



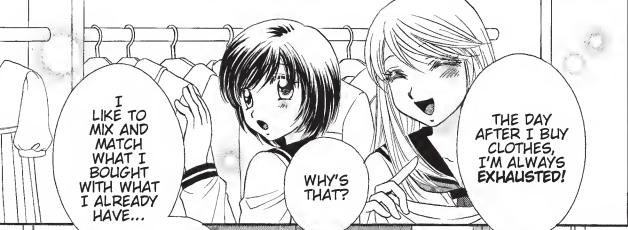
HAVE YOU FOUND ANYTHING YOU LIKE?



OH...

DID EVERY-ONE COME OUT TODAY ...

FOR ME...?



I
LIKE TO
MIX AND
MATCH
WHAT I
BOUGHT
WITH WHAT
I ALREADY
HAVE...

WHY'S
THAT?

THE DAY
AFTER I BUY
CLOTHES,
I'M ALWAYS
EXHAUSTED!



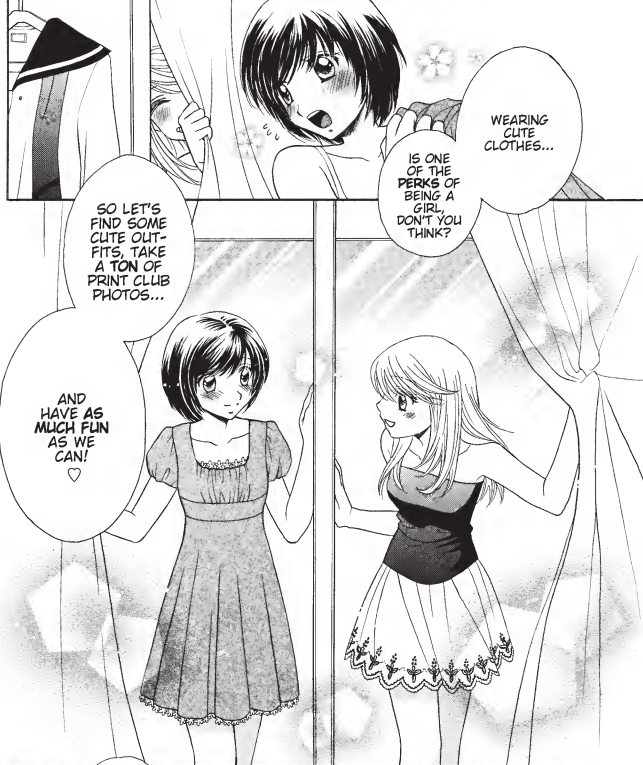
I
STAY UP
ALL NIGHT
HAVING A
ONE-GIRL
FASHION
SHOW!

I END UP
THROWING
CLOTHES
EVERYWHERE
AND MAKING
A MESS OF
MY ROOM...

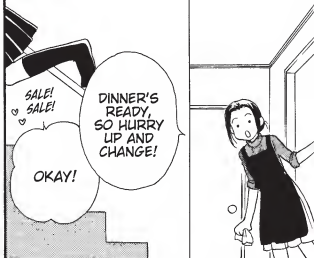
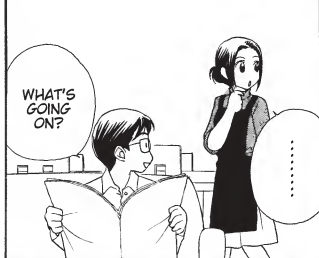


BUT
YOU
KNOW
WHAT?

HA
HA
HA!









WHAT
SHOULD
I WEAR
IT WITH?

YEAH!
THIS IS
REALLY
CLUTE.
♡
IT GOES
WELL WITH
DENIM, AND
IT'S SO
YOU!



YES, OF
ALL THE
CLOTHES
I SAW, I
LIKED THIS
THE MOST.



IT
MIGHT
LOOK
GOOD
WITH A
JEAN
SKIRT.

OR
WITH A
TURTLE-
NECK
UNDER-
NEATH...

THAT
NIGHT...

N
N
N



I'LL
BUY
SOME
SHOES
TO GO
WITH
IT...

AND
THEN...

I'LL
WEAR
A COAT
OVER
IT...

AND...

I HAD
A FASHION
SHOW IN MY
DREAMS.

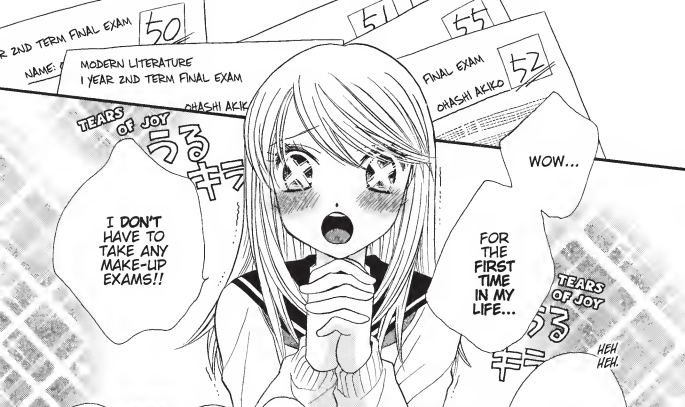




WHEN I'M ON
A TRAIN, IF THERE
ARE ANY OPEN SEATS,
I'LL SIT DOWN.

I READ NOVELS OR
TEXTBOOKS. IT'S A
GOOD TIME TO STUDY!

GIRL FRIENDS — ガールフレンズ —



WINTER
VACATION IS
AROUND THE
CORNER.

MARI-
CHIN IS MY
PERSONAL
TUTOR!



I'M GLAD
AKKO-CHAN'S
GRADES
IMPROVED.

I
DIDN'T
ENJOY
THE
EXAMS...

BUT I
LOVED
THE STUDY
SESSIONS.

AKKO-
CHAN
ISN'T
DUMB...

SHE
JUST HAS
TROUBLE
STAYING
FOCUSED.

AFTER YOU
FINISH THIS
PROBLEM...

MINISTER
DONUT

I WANT
ANOTHER
ONE.

I CAN'T
WAIT...

FOR
WINTER
VACA-
TION.

I
WON'T
SEE
EVERY-
ONE
FOR A
WHILE.

ONCE THE
CLOSING
CEREMONY
IS OVER...

SHE
HAS
PRETTY
LEGS.

HER
SKIRT IS
SO SHORT...

JUST A
PEEK!

I'VE
GOTTEN
SO MANY
PRINT CLUB
PHOTOS...

FLIP...



THIS
LENGTH...

IS
TOO
SHORT
FOR
ME.

MY
LEGS
ARE
FAT...

COM-
PARED
TO AKKO-
CHAN...

I'M
SO...

ACTUALLY,
I'VE BE-
COME A
LITTLE
ROUND
ALL
OVER.

MAYBE
...

I'VE
GOT-
TEN...

PINCH
PINCH

I'M
FAT!

I...

REPORT CARD

YOU EAT
TOO MUCH
FAST FOOD!!

OH, I
THOUGHT
YOUR
REPORT
CARD HAD
YOUR
WEIGHT
ON IT!

I'VE
GAINED
FIVE
POUNDS!

I HADN'T
WEIGHED
MYSELF IN
A MONTH,
BUT WHEN
I GOT
ON THE
SCALE--

HUH?

IS IT
REALLY
THAT
BIG A
SUR-
PRISE?

GLOOM

I WAS
WONDER-
ING WHY
SHE
LOOKED
SAD.

WE
HAVE
BEEN GOING
TO MISTER
DONUT EVERY
DAY...

NO
WONDER
I'VE
GAINED
WEIGHT.

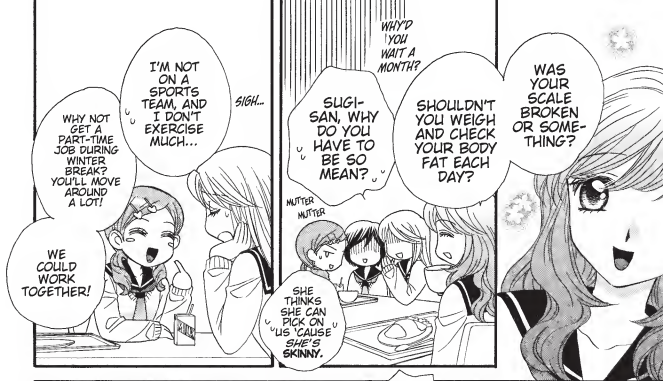
I'M A
GROWING
GIRL!!

YOU EAT
A LOT OF
SWEETS
WHEN YOU
STUDY,
RIGHT?

SKIPPING
LUNCH
TODAY
WON'T
HELP.

YEAH,
AKKO,
YOU EAT AT
MCDONALD'S
OR MISTER
DONUT EVERY
DAY...

BUT
YOU'RE
GROWING
SIDE-
WAYS!







OKAY!

DIET
BUDDIES!!

WE'LL DO IT
TOGETHER!

YOU
AND
ME!



WHAT
ARE YOU
IMPLYING?

EH?

ARE YOU
GONNA
JOIN THEM,
TAMA-MIN?

I COVER UP
IN WINTER,
SO I'M FINE.



AND
SO...

DAY 1 OF
WINTER
BREAK
AND THE
START
OF OUR
DIET.

DECEMBER

FRI	FRI	SAT
	1	2
7	8	9
14	15	16
21	22	23

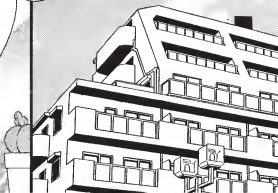
CLASS SCHEDULE

	MON	TUE	WED	THU
1	100	100	100	100
2	100	100	100	100
3	100	100	100	100
4	100	100	100	100

GOAL:
DURING
WINTER BREAK
LOSE 7 POUNDS.
GO FOR IT, AKKO!

HELLO?
MARI-
CHIN?
CAN I
TALK TO
YOU?

HEY!





I'M GLAD WE DIDN'T EAT THERE YESTERDAY.

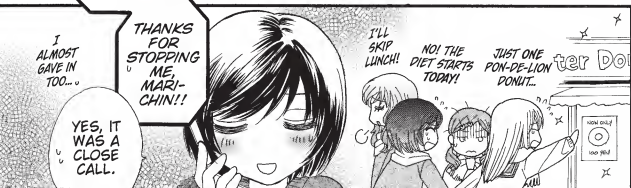
AHAHA. I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN...

DID YOU READ THE GUIDEBOOK?

ONE CHOCO-FASHION DONUT HAD 318 CALORIES!

NOW I'M DE-PRESSED ...

I JUST READ THE PART ABOUT MISTER DONUT.



I ALMOST GAVE IN TOO...

THANKS FOR STOPPING ME, MARI-CHIN!!

YES, IT WAS A CLOSE CALL.

I'LL SKIP LUNCH!

NO! THE DIET STARTS TODAY!

JUST ONE PON-DE-LION DONUT...

ter Donut

NON OIL
100 Kcal



I'M SORRY.

I WANTED US TO HAVE FUN DURING WINTER VACATION, MARI-CHIN...

DARN IT!

OH...

EVEN THE PHOTOS ARE MAKING ME DROOL.

OR THE FRENCH CRULLER, ONLY 194 CALORIES...
THE PON-DE IS ONLY 222 CALORIES...

THIS IS TOUGH!

CAN SHE MAKE IT THROUGH DAY 1?

AKKO-CHIN...

BUT NOW I WISH I HAD EATEN ONE LAST DONUT BEFORE GOING ON THE DIET...

LIKE THE MISTER DONUT 'NOELLE.'

SIGH...

WHAT?

Rock

AS A
REWARD!
♡

I FEEL
LIKE I CAN
MAKE IT THIS
TIME BECAUSE
OF YOU,
MARI-CHIN!

BUT WE
HAVE TO GO
TO THE NEW
YEAR'S SALE
TOGETHER!!

I CAN
NEVER
STICK TO
A DIET,
BUT...

CALORIE GUIDE

I DON'T
THINK WE'LL
LOSE A TON
OF WEIGHT...

GIGGLE
GIGGLE

LET'S
LOSE A
TON OF
WEIGHT
OVER
VACATION!

THAT'LL
SHOW
SUGI-
SAN AND
TAMA-
MIN!

WEIRD.

...I
NEVER
THOUGHT
DIETING
COULD
BE FUN.

WE
COULD
START
WITH
WALKING
OR GOING
UP AND
DOWN
STAIRS.

OH
YEAH,
I DID
SOME
RESEARCH
ON EASY
EXERCISES.

I
THOUGHT
WINTER
BREAK
WOULD BE
BORING,
BUT...

EX-
ACTLY!

WOW!
THAT'S
SO BASIC!!
HAHAHA!!



ONCE WE
STARTED,
IT WAS
TOUGH.

BUT...

100KCAL - 1600KCAL
30 MINUTES OF WALKING
STRETCHING
CRUNCHES,
BACK STRETCHES
WARM BATH



NOW
EAT UP!

YOU DON'T
NEED TO GO
ON A DIET!

SIGH...

SO MOM
GAVE ME
A HARD
TIME.

I HAD A
LIGHT
LUNCH...



THE
DAYS
GO BY
SLOWLY...

WITH-
OUT
SCHOOL.

IT'S
ONLY
3 PM...

AND...

I
DIDN'T
REAL-
IZE...

OH!

A
TEXT!

WHAT
SHOULD
I DO
UNTIL
DINNER?



IT'S
HARD
TO BE
ON A
DIET...

AKKO-CHAN
HEY! ♥

I WALKED FOR AN
HOUR!! ☹️ ☹️ AREN'T
I A GOOD GIRL?! ♥
I SWEATED A LOT &
HOPE TO LOSE A LOT
OF WT. ♥ MAYBE 2
LBS. ALREADY! ☹️
MAYBE I'LL LOSE
40 BY THE END OF
WINTER BR



LET'S
SEE...

IT'S
FROM
AKKO-
CHAN.

CLICK

TIME FOR
STRETCHES!

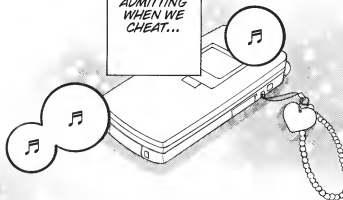
OKAY!
♪

BUT
REPORTING WHAT
EXERCISES
WE DID...

AND
ADMITTING
WHEN WE
CHEAT...



AND
CHECKING
IN WITH
EACH
OTHER
EVERY
DAY...



YOU GAVE
IT TO ME!
GRR!

CAKE...

I'M
WAITING
FOR A TEXT
FROM MY
FRIEND!

WHAT IF YOU
DROP IT IN
THE TUB?!

GOOD-
NESS,
MARIKO!

DON'T
TAKE YOUR
CELL PHONE
INTO THE
BATH.

*Kohaku Uta Gassen is an annual New Year's Eve music program in Japan. **Otoshidama is money children receive on New Year's Day.

WH-WHAT
CHANNEL IS
"KOHAKU"
ON?

I WANNA
CELL PHONE,
TOO! PLEASE!

HAHAHA!
A BOY-
FRIEND,
EH?

MY
GOOD-
NESS!
EVEN ON
NEW YEAR'S
EVE...

SAFARI

BUY IT
WITH YOUR
OTOSHIDAMA**.

MAYBE
MARIKO'S
GOT A
BOY-
FRIEND!

SHE
TAKES
LONG
BATHS
TOO.

MARI-CHIN,
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING RIGHT
NOW? I'M
TAKING A
BATH. ♪
IT'S HOT! ♪

IT'S
FROM
AKKO-
CHAN!
♡

HA HA!
ME TOO!

TAP

!





//// A-
AKKO-
CHAN...

AKKO-CHAN
SERVICE ♥♥
(40KB) 061231-
2113-0003.JPG

?
SHE
SENT A
PICTURE?

click

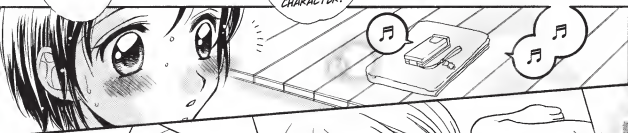
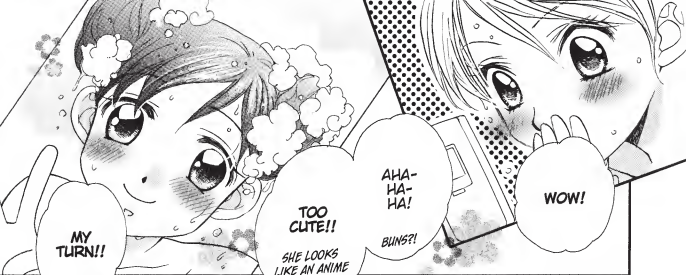


OH.

IT'S
MARI-
CHAN!



HHMM





IT WAS
MY FIRST
TIME AT A
SALE AND
I TOTALLY
OVERSPENT.

ME
TOO...

OOPS.

AND I
VISITED
SO MANY
RELATIVES
TO GET IT
TOO!

IT'S ONLY
BEEN THREE
DAYS SINCE
NEW YEAR'S
AND I ALREADY
USED HALF
OF MY OTO-
SHIDAMA!



I'M
KINDA
TIRED.

IT'S
JUST...

EH?



?

WHAT'S
WRONG?



WE'RE
ALMOST
THERE!

THE
NEXT
TERM
WILL
START
SOON.

BUT
THIS IS
OUR
REWARD
FOR
STICKING
TO THE
DIET!



I DIDN'T
EAT ANY
SWEETS
DURING
CHRISTMAS
AND NEW
YEAR'S,
BUT...

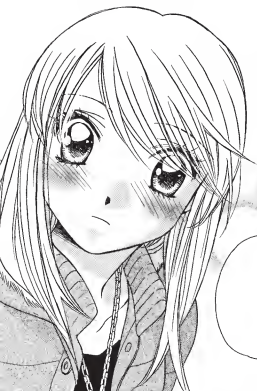
MY
WEIGHT
STAYED
THE
SAME!

OH?

SHIGH...

TO BE
HONEST,
I HAVEN'T
LOST MUCH
WEIGHT.





.....

IT'S
OKAY TO
TAKE A
BREAK
NOW AND
THEN.



ARE
YOU
SURE?

NO, IT'S
OKAY!

BE-
SIDES,
I'M
BROKE.

MISTER DONUT IS NOW
JUST A STAR IN THE SKY.
☆

AND
MICKEY D'S...
AND KFC
TOO!

UM,
OKAY
...

FROM
NOW ON,
MISTER
DONUT IS
DEAD TO
ME!!

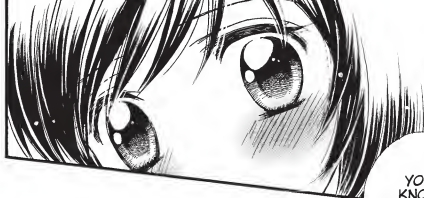


THANK
YOU,
MARI.

SHE
DIDN'T
HAVE
TO GO
THAT
FAR...

WE'LL
TREAT
OUR-
SELVES
TODAY...

AND GO
BACK ON
OUR DIETS
TOMORROW!



HM?

YOU
KNOW
WHAT?

I'M
GLAD
WE'RE
FRIENDS...

...MARI.

FOR
REAL!
♡

I
FELT...

THE
SAME
WAY...

BUT...

おはよう おはよう

OH
GOSH,
LISTEN
TO ME!

I
DIDN'T
HAVE THE
COURAGE
TO SAY
SO.



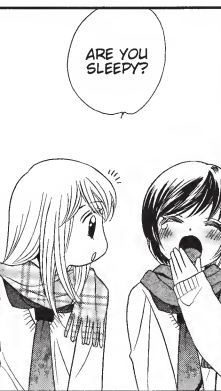
IF
WE HAD
GONE TO
MISTER
DONUT
THAT DAY,
I WOULD
HAVE JUST
PIGGED
OUT!

OH
DEAR...

SO WE
BOTH LOST
SOME WEIGHT
AFTER ALL!

I
KNOW!

START
OF THE
NEW
TERM.



ARE YOU
SLEEPY?



THEY
DIDN'T
NOTICE
WHEN I
GAINED
SOME
WEIGHT...

I
DON'T
THINK
THEY'LL
NOTICE 5
POUNDS,
BUT...

WHAT-
EVER.

I DID
KIND OF
LIE TO THEM
IN AN EMAIL
SAYING
WE DIDN'T
LOSE ANY
WEIGHT.

I CAN'T
WAIT TO
SEE THE
LOOK ON
SUGI-SAN
AND TAMA-
MIN'S
FACES!

THEY
MIGHT
NOT EVEN
RECOGNIZE
US!

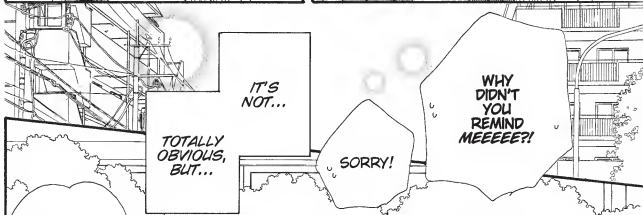
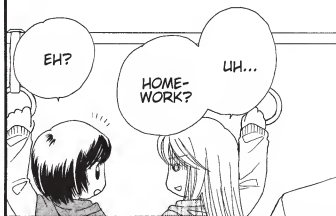
HEE!

TEE



I WAS
UP LATE
LAST NIGHT
FINISHING
IT.

YEAH.
I WAS SO
BUSY WITH
OUR DIET
I FORGOT
ABOUT
HOME-
WORK...





YOUR
SKIRT
RIDES
UP!

WELL...

BECAUSE...



YOU
FLASH
EVERY-
ONE.

NICE
PANTIES,
BY THE
WAY!

BUT
WHEN
YOU RUN
UP THE
STEPS...

IT'S
CUTE,
MARI...



ROLL
IT AT
THE
WAIST

THAT'S
HOW YOU
MAKE IT
A MINI-
SKIRT!

JEEZ!

WE'VE
ALREADY
SEEN
EACH
OTHER
NAKED!

BUT OTHER
PEOPLE
MIGHT'VE
SEEN MY
UNDERWEAR!

IT'S
JUST FAN
SERVICE.

AKKO!!

AH...

WHY
DIDN'T
YOU
TELL
ME?!

I NEED
TO FIX MY
SKIRT...

WHEN
YOU GO
UP STAIRS,
COVER YOUR
BUTT WITH
YOUR BAG.

AND A
LOT OF
THINGS
HAVE
CHANGED...

I
GAINED
SOME
WEIGHT
OVER NEW
YEAR'S...

EHEH.

HELP
ME LOSE
IT LIKE
YOU GUYS
DID!

HM?
WHO'RE
YOU?

AT THE
START
OF THIS
NEW
TERM.



YOU BURN MORE
CALORIES STANDING,
SO I NEVER SIT
ON THE TRAIN.

AND I CARRY MY BAG
AWAY FROM ME TO
WORK MY TRICEPS. ♡

GIRL FRIENDS — ガールフレンズ —



TRAIN IS
APPROACHING
PLATFORM 1.

PLEASE
STAY
BEHIND
THE
WHITE
LINE.

AKKO'S
LATE...

AND SHE
HASN'T
REPLIED TO
MY TEXTS
EITHER.
I HOPE
SHE'S ALL
RIGHT...



DOORS
CLOSING
FOR THE
TRAIN
TO--



A
K
I
H
A
B
A
R
A



I
BETTER
GO...

IF
I DON'T
GET ON
THIS TRAIN,
I'LL BE
LATE.





WHAT?

SHE
WASN'T
AT THE
STATION
THIS
MORN-
ING...

WHERE'S
AKKO
AT?

GOOD
MORNING.

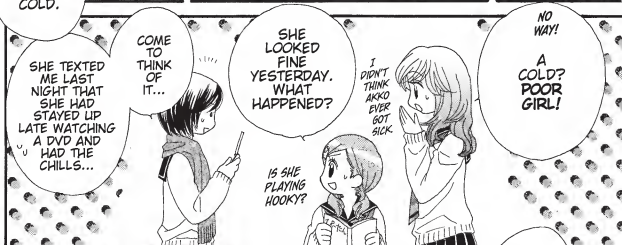
AH!

SHE'S
NOT
WITH
YOU?

OH.

MORNING,
MARI-CHIN.

AKKO'S
HOME
SICK
WITH A
COLD.



SHE TEXTED
ME LAST
NIGHT THAT
SHE HAD
STAYED UP
LATE WATCHING
A DVD AND
HAD THE
CHILLS...

COME
TO
THINK
OF
IT...

SHE
LOOKED
FINE
YESTERDAY.
WHAT
HAPPENED?

I
DIDN'T
THINK
AKKO
EVER
GOT
SICK.

NO
WAY!

A
COLD?
POOR
GIRL!

IS SHE
PLAYING
HOOKY?



THAT'S
ALL YOU
CARE
ABOUT?

YOU'RE NOT
WORRIED
ABOUT HER?

SO,
WHAT
MOVIE
DID SHE
SEE?

ON A
SCHOOL
NIGHT?
HOW
STUPID!

I'M
CURIOUS.

[CHAPTER 5]



TAKE
YOUR
SEATS.

RISE...

BOW...

I
WONDER
IF...

SHE'LL
BE
OUT
ALL
DAY.

IS
OHASHI
THE ONLY
ONE
ABSENT?

REMEMBER,
TODAY'S
THE DAY...

TO SUBMIT
YOUR COURSE
SELECTIONS.

SIGH...

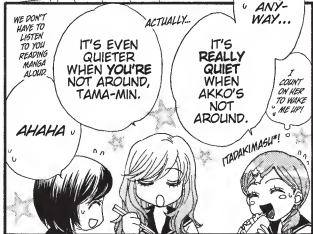
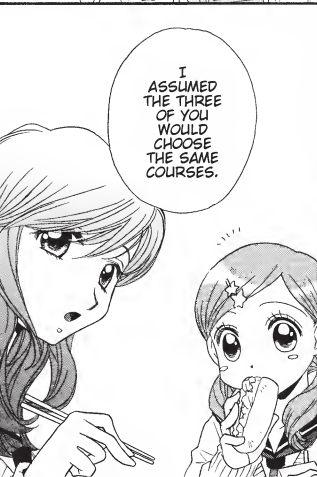
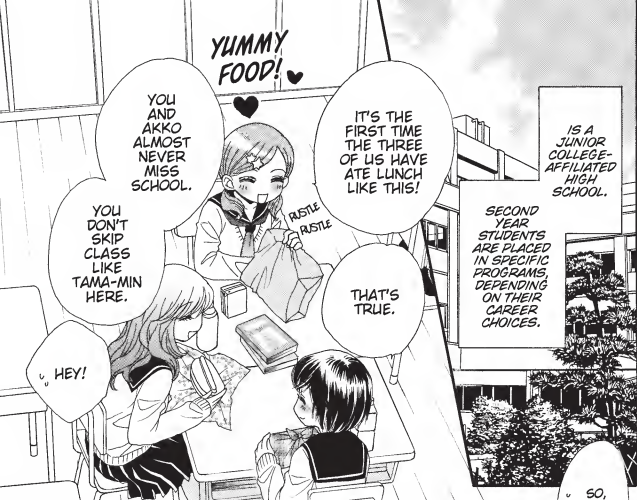
OUR
SCHOOL
...

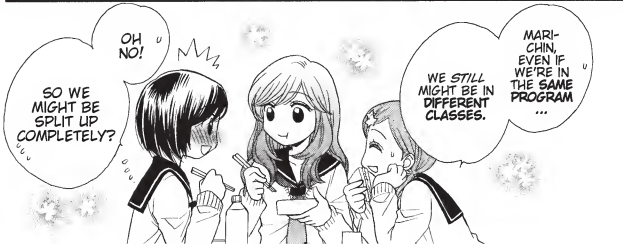
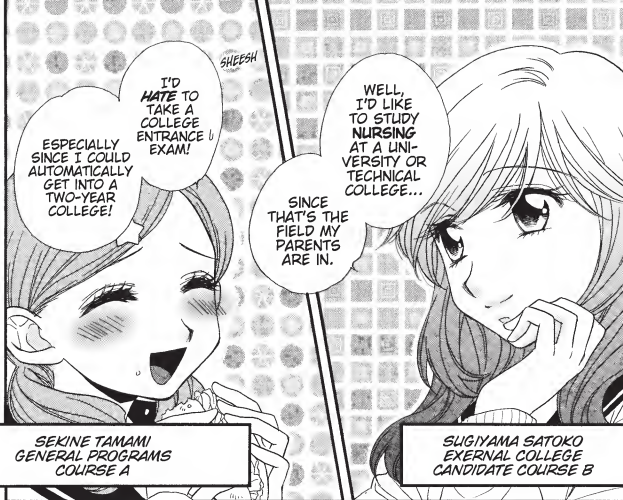
CLATTER

CLATTER

RUSTLE
RUSTLE

! THAT'S
RIGHT...





OH...
SO
I'M THE
ONLY ONE
FREAKING
OUT.

CLASS
ASSIGN-
MENTS...

IT'S
JUST...

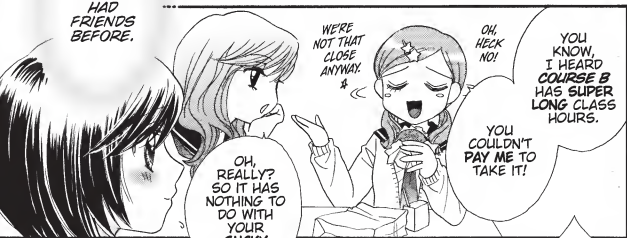
I'VE
NEVER
HAD
FRIENDS
BEFORE.

RIGHT, ME
EITHER!

I'M
NOT TOO
WORRIED
ABOUT
IT.

BUT IT'S
NOT LIKE
WE'LL
STOP
BEING
FRIENDS.

MAYBE...



WE'RE
NOT THAT
CLOSE
ANYWAY.

OH,
HECK
NO!

YOU
KNOW,
I HEARD
COURSE B
HAS SUPER
LONG CLASS
HOURS.

YOU
COULDN'T
PAY ME TO
TAKE IT!

OH,
REALLY?
SO IT HAS
NOTHING TO
DO WITH
YOUR
SUCKY
GRADES?

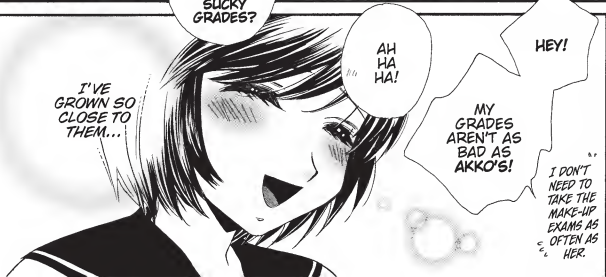
I'VE
GROWN SO
CLOSE TO
THEM...

AH
HA
HA!

HEY!

MY
GRADES
AREN'T AS
BAD AS
AKKO'S!

I DON'T
NEED TO
TAKE THE
MAKE-UP
EXAMS AS
OFTEN AS
HER.





YOU GUYS
DIDN'T TALK
ABOUT IT,
MARI-CHIN?

WHAT
?!

WELL,
I JUST
FIGURED
SHE TOLD
YOU BOTH
FIRST SINCE
YOU'RE
CLOSER.

DON'T
WORRY
I'M SURE
SHE'LL
GRADUATE.

WAS
IT A
SORE
SPOT
BECAUSE
OF HER
GRADEST

OH,
NO!



I DON'T
KNOW...

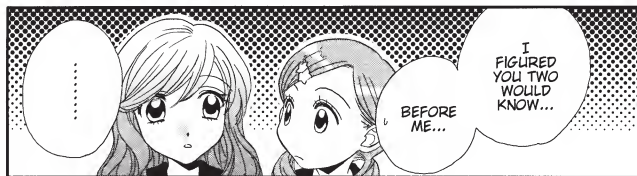
OH!



WHICH
COURSE
DID AKKO
PICK? A
OR B?

HM?

I THINK
A, BUT...



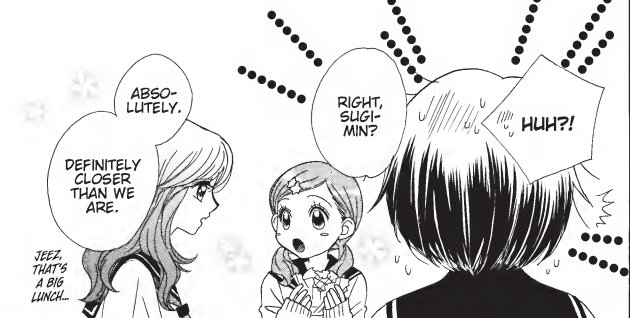
BEFORE
ME...

I
FIGURED
YOU TWO
WOULD
KNOW...



MARI-
CHIN...

YOU'RE
AKKO'S
BEST
FRIEND.



JEEZ,
THAT'S
A BIG
LUNCH...

ABSOLUTELY.

DEFINITELY
CLOSER
THAN WE
ARE.

RIGHT,
SUGI-
MIN?

HUH?!



BEST
FRIENDS...



HAVE
BEEN
FRIENDS
LONGER.

WAY
LONGER!

BUT THE
THREE
OF
YOU...

SURE
WE'RE
CLOSE...

BUT...



SHEESH.

I DON'T
THINK IT
MATTERS
HOW LONG
YOU'VE
KNOWN
SOMEONE,
YOU
KNOW?



I'M
SURE
AKKO
FEELS
THE
SAME
WAY.

RIGHT.

CHUCKLE



IT MIGHT
BE NICE...

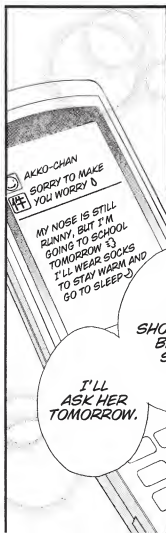
I
WONDER
IF...

REALLY?

AKKO'S
FEELING
BETTER.

HUINH...

TAD
TAD



AKKO-CHAN
SORRY TO MAKE
YOU WORRY :)

MY NOSE IS STILL
RUNNY, BUT I'M
GOING TO SCHOOL
TOMORROW :3
I'LL WEAR SOCKS
TO STAY WARM AND
GO TO SLEEP :D

I
SHOULDN'T
BE SO
SHY.

I'LL
ASK HER
TOMORROW.

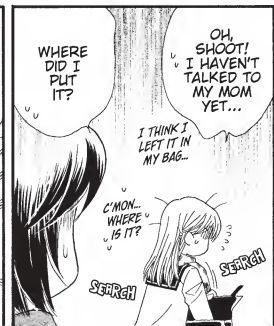
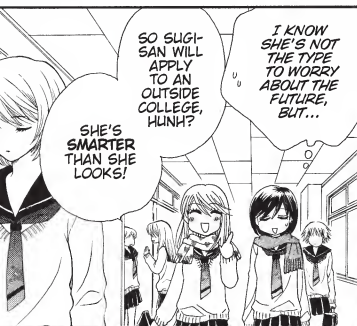
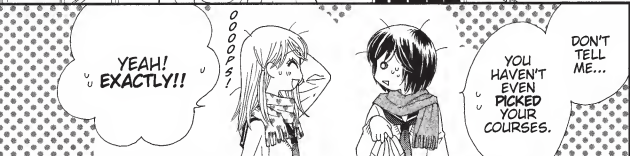


OH!



THAT
WOULD
MAKE
HER MY
FIRST...

CLOSE
FRIEND.





GREAT!
WE'LL BE
TOGETHER!



Y-
YES...

THAT'S
MY
PLAN
FOR
NOW...

BA-THUMP

HOW
ABOUT
YOU, MARI?
DID YOU
CHOOSE THE
REGULAR
COURSE?

OH!



OH,
RIGHT...

EH?

I
FORGOT
ABOUT
THAT.

I WAS
THINKING
OF PICKING
COURSE A
ANYWAY,
SOOO...

EVEN IF
WE'RE IN
THE SAME
COURSE, WE
MIGHT BE IN
DIFFERENT
CLASSES,
YOU KNOW.

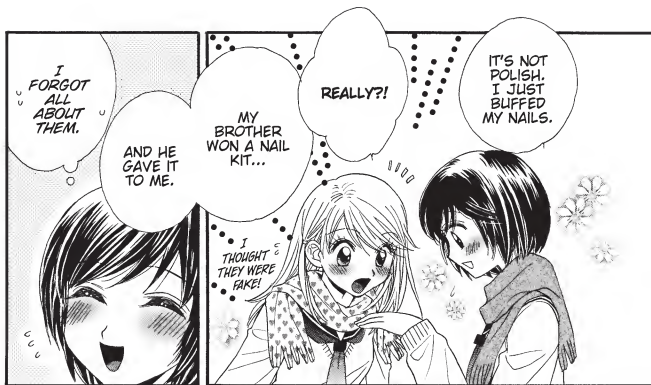


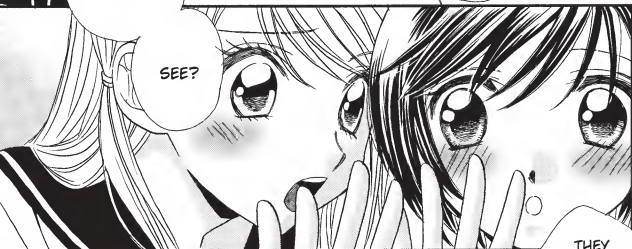
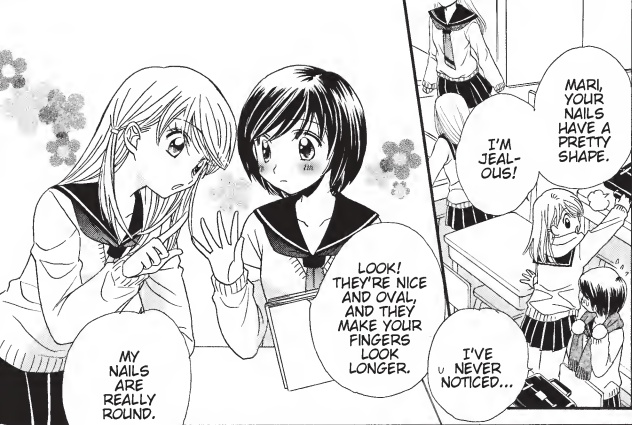
AT LEAST
WE'RE IN
THE SAME
COURSE.

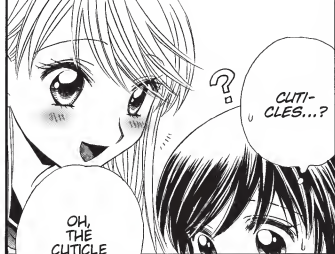
PHW

BY THE
WAY...



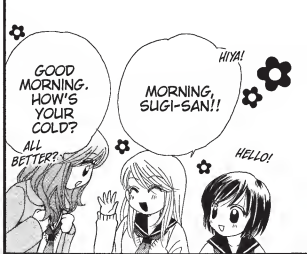






CUTI-
CLES...?

OH,
THE
CUTICLE
IS...



YOU NEED
TO PUSH IT
BACK ALONG
THE RIDGE...

AND
THEN
YOU CAN
PAINT
YOUR
NAILS!

IT'S
ALWAYS
LIKE
THIS.

GOOD MORNING!!
WHAT'S GOING ON?

IT'S BETTER
IF YOU MASSAGE
YOUR CUTICLES
WITH OIL FIRST.

AH
HA
HA!

IF YOU
KNOW THAT
MUCH, WHY
DON'T YOUR
NAILS LOOK
BETTER?

ガッ
SLIDE

WE
ALWAYS
GATHER
ROUND...

SUGI-SAN
ALWAYS
KEEPS
HER NAILS
PRETTY!

LOOK!

AND
TALK
ABOUT
WHAT-
EVER.

HEY
GUYS!

MY
BOYFRIEND
LOVES MY
NAILS, SO
I MAKE
AN EFFORT
FOR HIM.



WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

ALL I
GET IS



GOOD
MORNING,
TAMA-
MIN!

AWESOME!
AFTER
SCHOOL
LET'S GO
BUY SOME
NAIL
POLISH!

UH,
TAMA-
MIN...

IT'S ONE
OF MY
SPECIAL-
TIES!

I'LL GIVE
YOU TWO
SOME TIPS
ON NAIL
CARE.

SHAKE

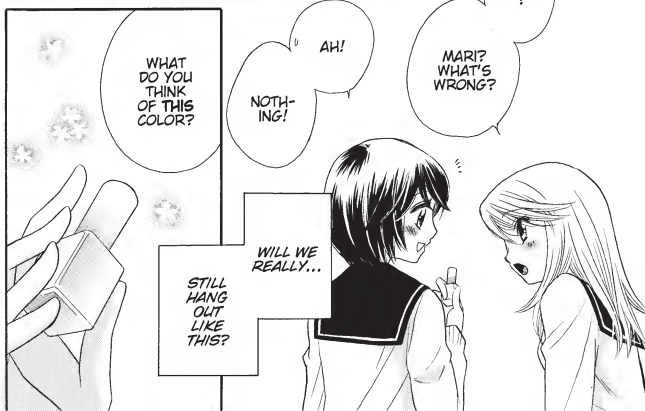
WE
GOOF
OFF, EAT
LUNCH...

SHAKE

DON'T
LEAVE ME
OUT!

AND
MAKE
PLANS
TOGETHER.

C'MON,
WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?!



OH, I
READ A
MAGAZINE
ARTICLE ON
THAT!

IT
LOOKS
REALLY
COOL, LIKE
SPARKLING
ICE!

EVEN IF
WE END UP
IN DIFFERENT
CLASSES...

MAYBE
I SHOULD
GET ONE,
TOO. I'D
LIKE TO TRY
THE SYRUP
NAILS LOOK,
IF IT'S NOT
TOO HARD.

OOOH,
IT'S
PRETTY!
♡

I STILL
WANT TO
STAY...

CLOSE
TO
HER,
LIKE
THIS.

SLOWLY
APPLY...

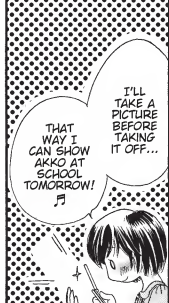
SEVERAL
LAYERS
OF CLEAR
POLISH.

WAIT
FOR ONE
LAYER TO
DRY...

BEFORE
APPLYING
THE NEXT
LAYER.

FWOO





THAT
WAY I
CAN SHOW
AKKO AT
SCHOOL
TOMORROW!

♪

I'LL
TAKE A
PICTURE
BEFORE
TAKING
IT OFF...



IT
REALLY
LOOKS
LIKE
SYRUP.

♡

NICE
GRADATION.

SO
PRETTY!

♪

ALL
DONE!



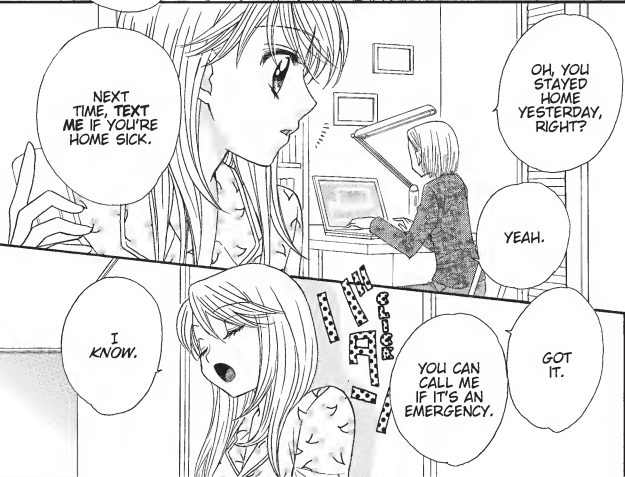
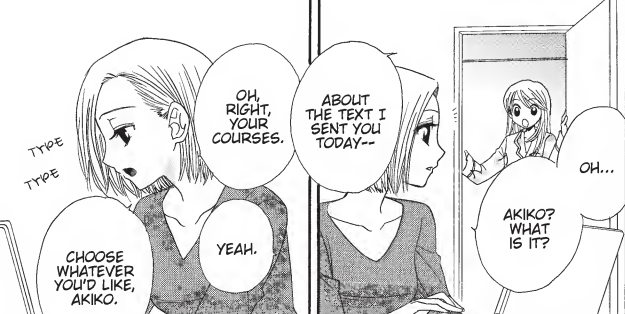
EVEN IF
WE'RE IN
DIFFERENT
CLASSES...

WE CAN
STILL DO
THINGS
LIKE THIS
TOGETHER.

MOM,
ARE YOU
HOME?

KNOCK
KNOCK

K
E
E
E
K





OH...

MAYBE
IT'S TOO
LATE...

00:32



OH
WELL. I'LL
SEE HER
TOMORROW
ANYWAY.



WE'LL
BE
OKAY...



I
NEED
TO TELL
MARI!
♪

OH
YEAH!
♪

FLIP



TO-
MORROW
AND THE
NEXT
DAY...

AND
EVERY
DAY...

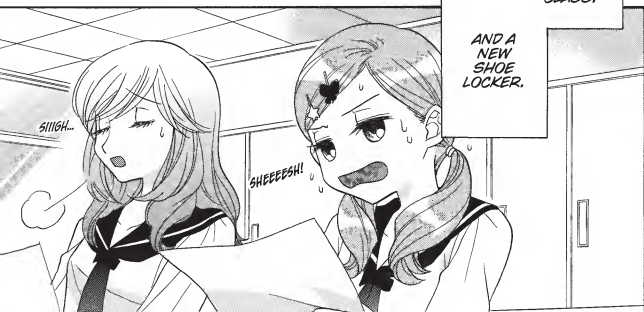
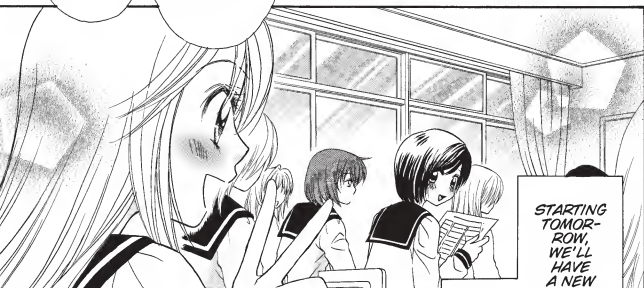
WE'LL
STILL BE
TOGETHER.



DURING
TRAIN RIDES,
I READ MANGA.

I TRY
REALLY HARD
NOT TO LAUGH. 〰

GIRL FRIENDS — ガールフレンズ —



HE'LL
CALL YOU
A "FOOLISH
STUDENT"
EVERY TIME
YOU GET A
QUESTION
WRONG!

A
HA
HA!

WHAT,
A DRAG!

AT LEAST
YOU'RE NOT
STUCK WITH
MAEDA.

IT'S YOUR
FAULT FOR
CHOOSING
COURSE B.

TODAY
IS THE
LAST
DAY...

DON'T
REMIND
ME!

WE GO
TO THE
SAME
CLASS.

SO
LAME...

OH
GAWD...

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
I'M STUCK
WITH
TAMAZOU
AGAIN!

FIRST YEAR →
TEACHER
TAMAZOU-SENSEI

DON'T
WORRY,
I'LL
REMIND
YOU.

TSF

YESTER-
DAY, I
WAS SO
WORRIED
ABOUT
THINGS
CHANGING...

YOU'RE
LUCKY!
YOU HAVE
NARU-CHAN
AS YOUR
TEACHER!

AKKO,
WHAT
CLASS
ARE YOU
TWO IN?

I WORRIED
OUR
FRIENDSHIP
WOULD
GET LOST
IN THE
SHUFFLE...

BUT
NOW...

GOD, I
HOPE I
REMEMBER
WHERE MY
NEW SHOE
LOCKER IS
TOMORROW.

JEALOUS?
♡

WE'RE
CLASS
1!

[CHAPTER 6]

I'M
BECOMING
MORE
OPTIMISTIC.

NOW I LOOK
FORWARD TO
TOMORROW.

MAYBE...

MAKE
SURE YOU
BOTH VISIT
US, OKAY?

YOU TWO
ARE LUCKY
TO BE IN
THE SAME
CLASS...

OH MAN,
I'M STUCK
WITH TAMAZOU
UNTIL I
GRADUATE!





YEAH,
I DO!

SO,
AKKO...

SURE!

OH,
JUST
CALL ME
AKKO!
♪

PLEASE
CALL ME
"AKKO"!

I...

YEAH, I
WAS IN
NARU-
CHAN'S
CLASS...

REALLY?
HOW WAS
IT?

I
WAS
TOO
SHY AT
FIRST...

BUT
NOW...

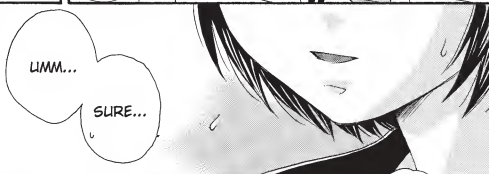
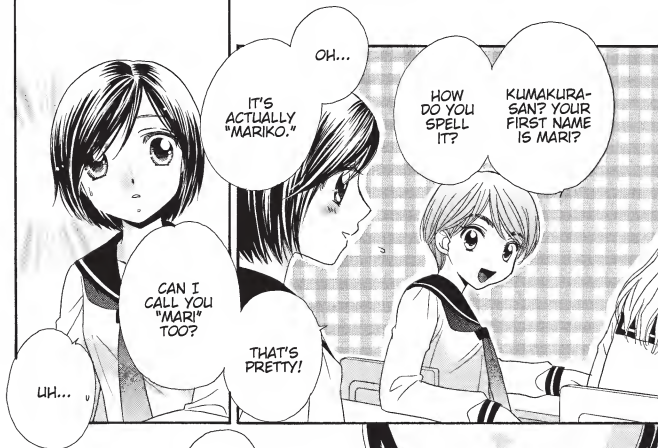
RIGHT...

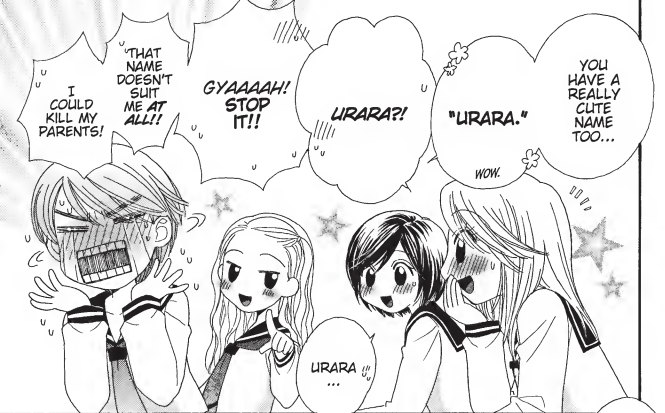
EH?

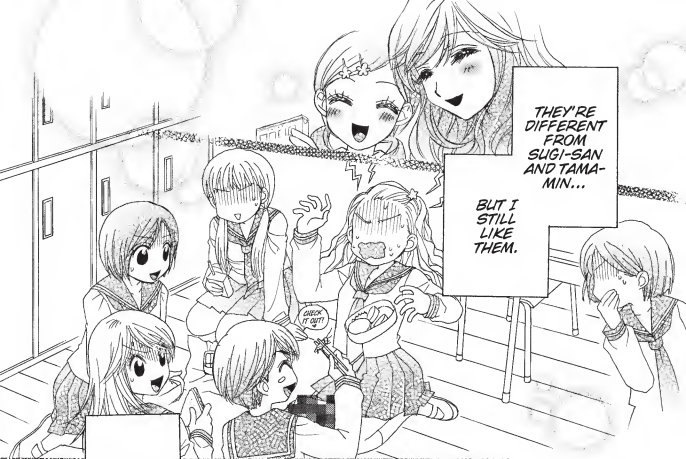
UH...

SURE!

MARI?







THEY'RE
DIFFERENT
FROM
SUGI-SAN
AND TAMA-
MIN...

BUT I
STILL
LIKE
THEM.

CHECK
IT OUT!

EVERY
DAY...



IS
FUN.

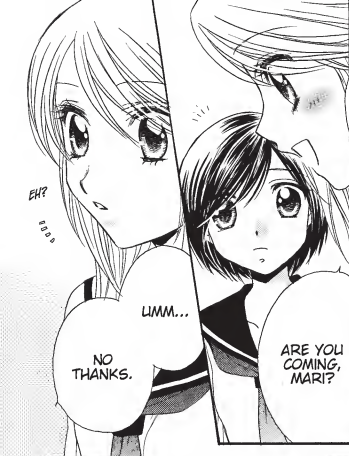


DASH

AKKO!

MARI-
CHIN!

DASH



NO
THANKS.

UMMM...

ARE YOU
COMING,
MARI?

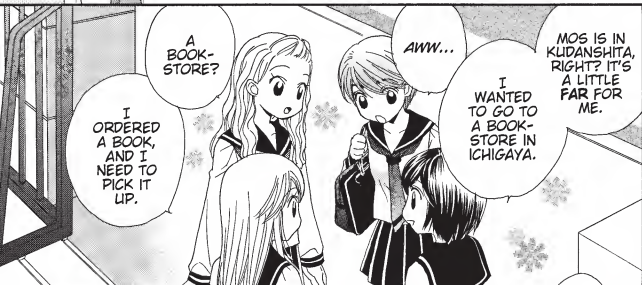
I'M
HUNGRY,
TOO! MOS
WORKS
FOR ME.

WE'RE
GONNA
GO TO MOS
BURGER.
WANNA
JOIN
US?

UGH,
I'M
SOOO
HUNGRY!
PE CLASS
WAS A
KILLER
TODAY!

I'M
IN!

SPREADS



A
BOOK-
STORE?

I
ORDERED
A BOOK,
AND I
NEED TO
PICK IT
UP.

AWW...

I
WANTED
TO GO TO
A BOOK-
STORE IN
ICHIGAYA.

MOS IS IN
KUDANSHITA,
RIGHT? IT'S
A LITTLE
FAR FOR
ME.



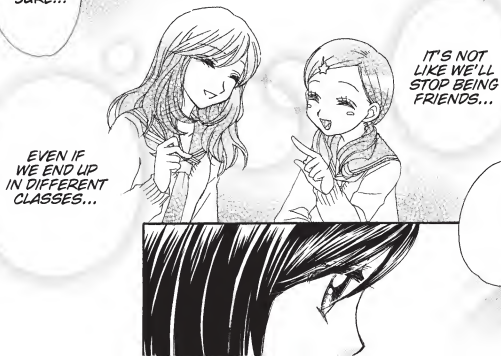
SORRY!

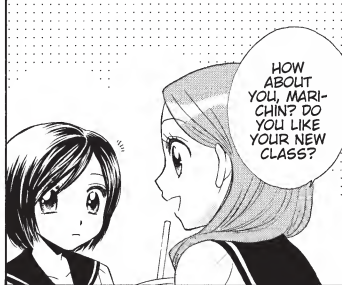
OH...

THAT'S
TOO
BAD...











"SHE'S
REALLY
CLUTE!"
♡
AND
STUFF.

AKKO
WOULD
ALWAYS
SAY, "LET'S
INVITE HER
OVER!"

*PRETTY
HIGH
EVERY
DAY!*

REMEMBER
HOW YOU
USED TO EAT
LUNCH BY
YOURSELF,
MARI-CHIN?

*SHE
SOUNDED
LIKE A
STALKER!*

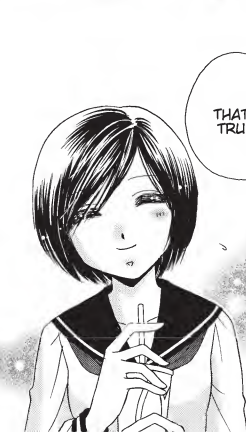


*I
DIDN'T
KNOW...*

SHE WAS
OBSESSED!

*SO
PATHETIC!*

*HA
HA
HA!*



YES...

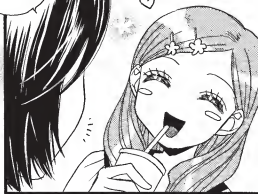
THAT'S
TRUE.

EH?

YOU
CAN DO
IT, MARI-
CHIN!

BUT YOU
HAD NO
PROBLEM
MAKING
FRIENDS
WITH US.

TOTAL!
♡



THAT'S
HOW I
AVOIDED
PEOPLE.

FLIP

I DIDN'T
KNOW
HOW TO
TALK TO
OTHER
PEOPLE...

SO I
READ
DURING
BREAKS
AND
EVEN
LUNCH.

I HAD
ABSO-
LUTELY
NO
IDEA...

WHAT
OTHER
GIRLS
TALKED
ABOUT.

LOOKING
BACK...

ALL I
DID WAS
STUDY.

BUT...

I
WANTED
TO
KNOW.

AND I
LEARNED
ABOUT
FASHION.

ONCE
I BE-
FRIENDED
AKKO...

I
CHANGED
MY HAIR-
STYLE...

AND
SO...

WHEN NEW
FRIENDS
CASUALLY
CALLED HER
"AKKO"...

AND
WHEN THEY
ASKED IF
THEY COULD
CALL ME
"MARI"... I
HESTITATED.

IT
BUGGED
ME.

I
KIND
OF...

KNEW
WHY.

IT'S BE-
CAUSE...

AKKO
IS THE
ONLY
ONE
WHO
CALLS
ME
"MARI"
...

WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH
ME?

Flop
SIGH...

TOO POSSES-
SIVE.

MAYBE
I'M
BEING...

clap

I SHOULDN'T
ACT LIKE THIS.

I'M
LUCKY TO
BE IN THE
SAME CLASS
AS HER.

I'M
JUST
BEING
SELFISH.

THAT IT
DOESN'T
MATTER
HOW LONG
YOU'VE
BEEN
FRIENDS
WITH SOME-
ONE, BUT...

SUGI-SAN
AND
TAMA-MIN
TOLD ME...

THIS IS
STUPID...

I'M
ACTING
LIKE A
LITTLE
CHILD.

SHAKE

SHAKE

AND I'VE
CHANGED
SO MUCH...

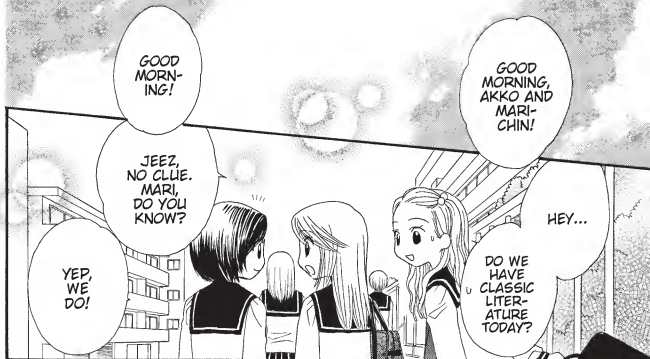
THANKS
TO AKKO.

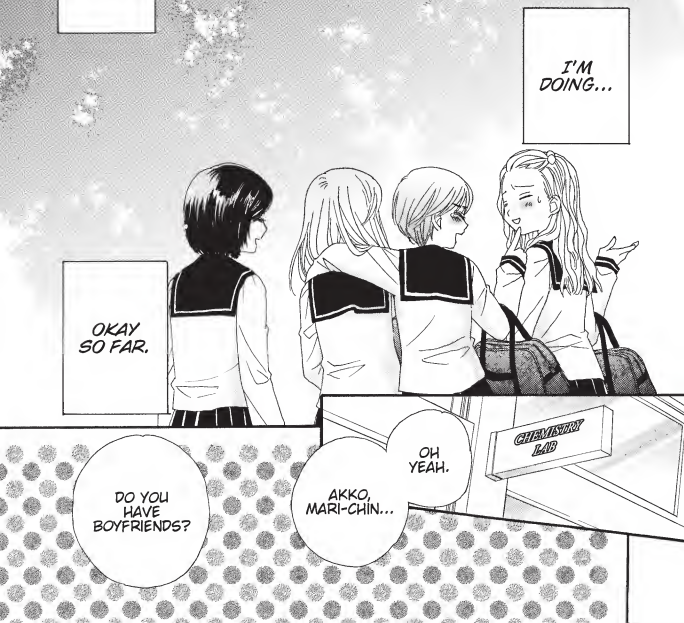
I NEED
TO SUCK
IT UP...

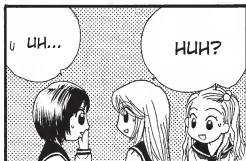
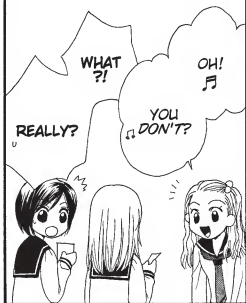
THAT'S
RIGHT.

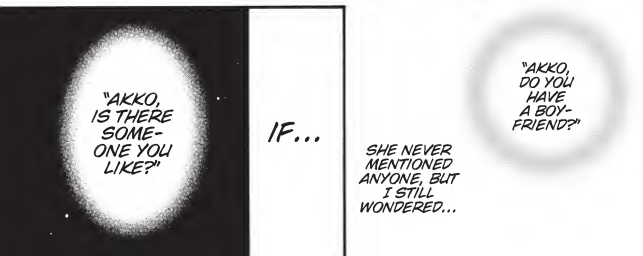
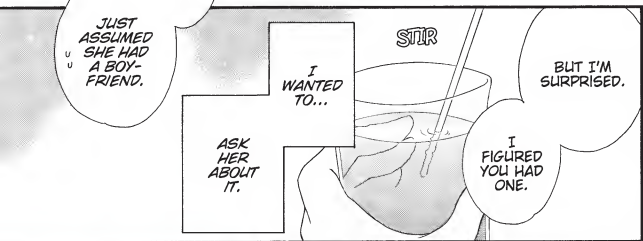
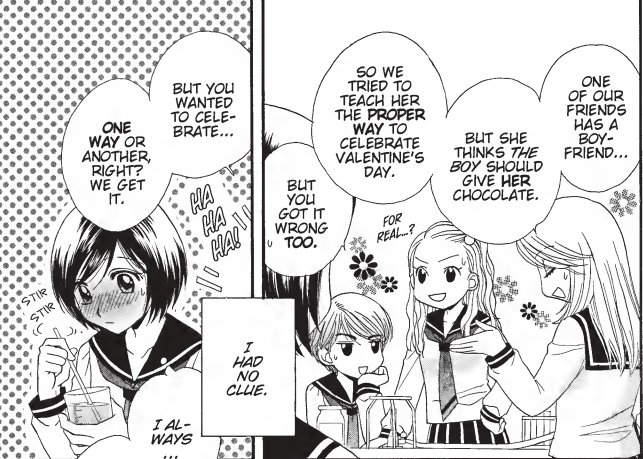
AND
GET TO
KNOW
OUR NEW
FRIENDS.

I JUST
NEED
TO GET
OVER IT.









HOW
ABOUT
YOU,
MARI-
CHIN?

EH?
NO.

YAY!
MORE
AKKO
FOR US!

JUST
BECAUSE
I'M CLUTE,
IT DOESN'T
MEAN I
HAVE A
BOY-
FRIEND.

ENOUGH
ALREADY!

BUT...

WE'RE
HAVING A
GOKON*
NEXT
SATUR-
DAY...

WANT TO
COME?

*A "gokon" is similar to a group date.

CO-
WORKERS
FROM
TAGUCHI'S
PART-
TIME
JOB.

WHAT
KIND OF
GUYS ARE
COMING?

I
NEVER
HAD THE
COURAGE
...

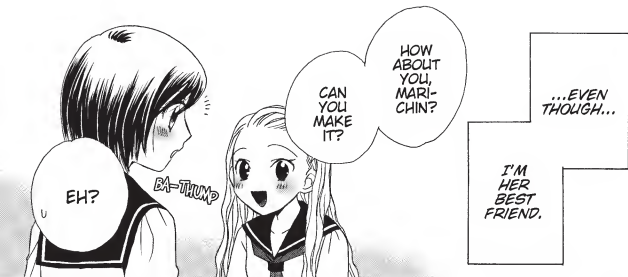
PLEASE?

A
GOKON?

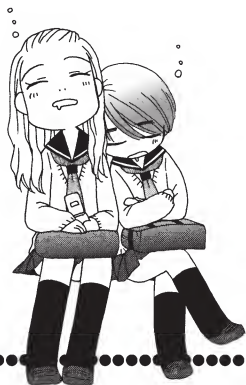
SATUR-
DAY,
HUH?
HMM...

I
PROMISED
TO BRING
CLUTE
GIRLS.

TO
ASK
HER...







BEFORE WE
KNOW IT...

WE'RE
BOTH
ASLEEP!

GIRL FRIENDS — ガールフレンズ —



YOU'RE
LOOKING
CUTE,
MARIKO.

ARE
YOU
GOING
OUT?

AH!
DON'T
STAY
OUT
TOO
LATE.

I
SEE.

YUP.

SEE
YOU
LATER!

SIIIIII
DADDY
LOVES
YOU,
MARIKO
...

DON'T
TELL
ME...

EH?

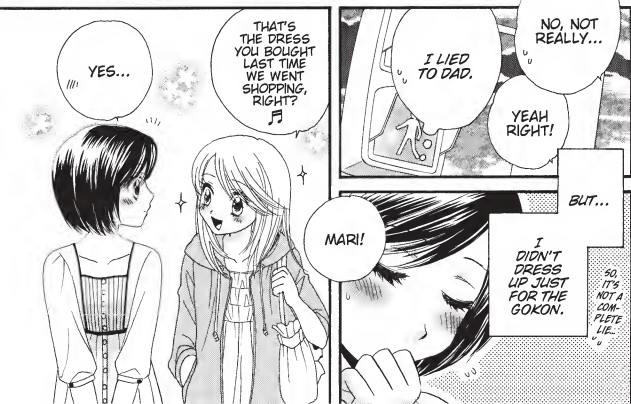
M-
MARIKO,
ARE YOU
GOING ON
A DATE?!

NO,
JUST
HANGING
OUT
WITH MY
FRIENDS!

[CHAPTER 7]



MY
FIRST
EVER
GOKON.





THAT
DRESS
REALLY
SUITS
YOU!

WAS
TO
HEAR
HER
SAY
THAT.

AND
OH SO
CUTE!

YOU LOOK
FANTASTIC!

THE
REAL
REA-
SON...

I
DRESSED
UP...



THANKS!



WHY'S
THAT?

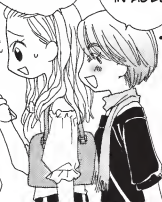
IT'S
HARD
TO FIND
ENOUGH
GIRLS.

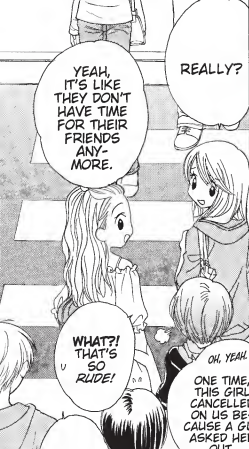
I
HAVEN'T
BEEN
TO A
GOKON
IN AGES!

GOSH,
I'M SO
CHILDISH.

THE
GIRLS WHO
USED TO GO
WITH US HAVE
ALL GOT
BOYFRIENDS.

LET'S
SEE
WHERE
THE
STORE IS.





YEAH,
IT'S LIKE
THEY DON'T
HAVE TIME
FOR THEIR
FRIENDS
ANY-
MORE.

REALLY?

WHAT?!
THAT'S
SO
RUDE!

OH, YEAH.

ONE TIME,
THIS GIRL
CANCELLED
ON US BE-
CAUSE A GUY
ASKED HER
OUT.

OH...



YEAH,
THAT'S
PART OF
IT, BUT...

LOTS
OF GIRLS
JUST STOP
HANGING OUT
ONCE THEY
HAVE A BOY-
FRIEND, YOU
KNOW?

WHO
WANTS TO
GO ON A
GROUP DATE
WHEN THEY
ALREADY
HAVE A
GUY!

OH, I
GET IT!



THAT
WAS ME,
WASN'T IT?
SORRY.



YOU
ACTUALLY
DID THAT,
KUNO-
CHAN?!

I
KNOW!
SHE'S
AWFUL!

I'VE
NEVER
BEEN IN
THAT SITU-
ATION, SO
I WOULDN'T
KNOW.

IS IT
REALLY
LIKE
THAT?

AAH
HA
HA
HA
HA!



IF
AKKO
GETS A
BOY-
FRIEND...

I--

IF
AKKO
FINDS A
BOYFRIEND
TONIGHT...

WILL SHE
CENTER
HER LIFE
AROUND
HIM?

AKKO'S
SO POP-
ULAR...

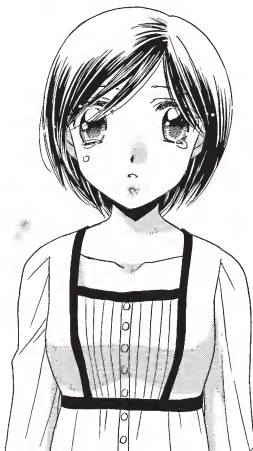
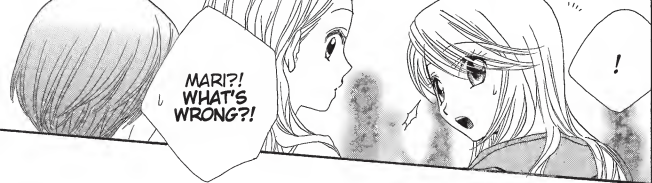
IT'S
ONLY A
MATTER
OF TIME.

WHAT
IF WE
DRIFT
APART...

LIKE
TAMA-
MIN AND
SUGI-
SAN?

BUT...

SURE,
WE'RE
STILL
IN THE
SAME
CLASS...



HUH?

MARI,
WHAT
DID I
TELL
YOU?!

YOU
DIDN'T
HAVE TO
COME IF
YOU HAVE A
STOMACH-
ACHE!

STOMACH-
ACHE!

THAT'S
WHAT
I TOLD
HER! I'LL
TAKE HER
HOME.

UHH...

I...
Ummm...

FORGET
ABOUT
THAT!
ARE YOU
OKAY,
MARI-
CHIN?!

EARLIER
SHE ATE SOME-
THING THAT DIDN'T
AGREE WITH HER,
BUT SHE DIDN'T
WANT TO FLAKE
OUT ON YOUR
GUYS.

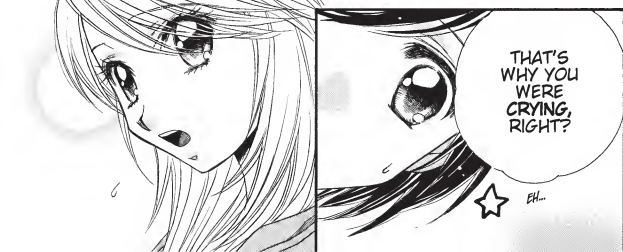
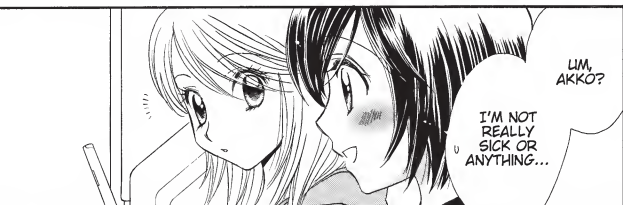
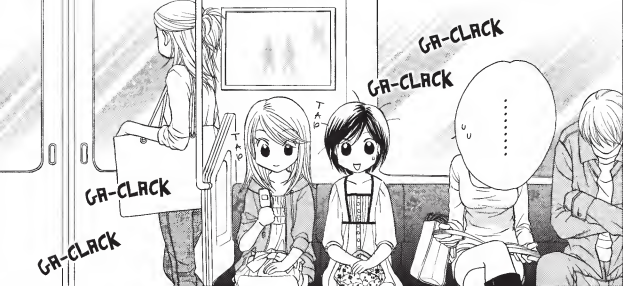
YEAH, YOU
DO THAT.
BUT WHAT
ABOUT THE
PARTY?

YOU
SHOULDN'T
GO OUT
DRINKING
IF YOU'RE
SICK!

CRAP,
WE'RE
SHORT
TWO GIRLS...

NO
WORRIES!

I'VE
GOT
THIS!
♥
I HAVE
AN IDEA!
♥





I
FIGURED
YOU WEREN'T
THE TYPE
TO GO FOR
GOKON.

Y-
YEAH
...

WELL,
SHE'S
GOT
PART
OF IT
RIGHT...

BUT
NOT
THE
WHOLE
PIC-
TURE.

R-
RIGHT
...

WELL...
IT'S
TRUE.

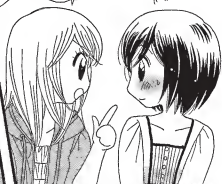
I STILL
WOULD HAVE
BEEN YOUR
FRIEND.

LIKE,
EVEN IF
YOU HADN'T
GOT YOUR
HAIR CUT
WITH ME
THAT DAY...

IF
PEOPLE
GET MAD
WHEN YOU
SAY "NO" TO
THEM, THEY'RE
NOT FRIENDS--
THEY'RE
JERKS!

I
MEAN,
IT'S GOOD
TO TRY
NEW
THINGS,
BUT...

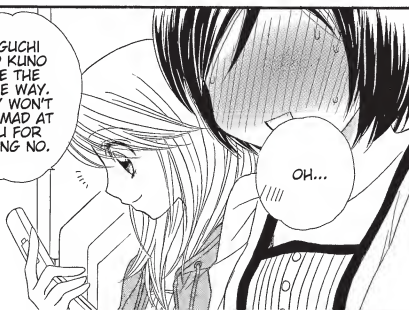
DON'T
EVER DO
ANYTHING
YOU DON'T
WANNA
DO!



BE-
SIDES
...

I'VE
SENT THEM
TWO CUTE
ANGELS TO
TAKE OUR
PLACE!

TAGUCHI
AND KUNO
ARE THE
SAME WAY.
THEY WON'T
GET MAD AT
YOU FOR
SAYING NO.



OH...



I'M
SATOKO.
THANK
YOU FOR
INVITING
US.

HI,
GUYS!
♡

I'M
TAMAMI!
♡
BUT YOU
CAN CALL ME
TAMA-MIN!
♡

PRIVATE KARAOKE ROOM

THEY'RE
GOING TO
TAKE ALL
THE GUYS
FROM
US...

ARE
THERE
ANY
ANIME
SONGS?

WHAT?

AND I'M
ALWAYS
ON THE
LOOKOUT
FOR BETTER
BOYFRIEND
MATERIAL.
♡

NO
PROBLEM.
WE'RE
ALWAYS
UP FOR A
GOKON.
♡

THANKS
SOOO
MUCH!
♡

EXCUSE
ME...

NONE OF
THEM ARE MY
TYPE, BUT...

CAN IT
BE A
DUET?

DRINKING
AFTER ALL...

WHAT
WOULD
YOU
LIKE TO
DRINK?

MENU

THE
GUYS
ARE
BLOWN
AWAY.

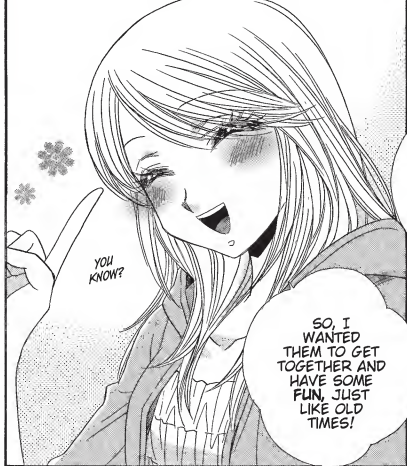


HOW?

I
THINK IT
MIGHT BE
A GOOD
CHANCE
FOR THEM.

BUT YOU
KNOW
...

I FEEL
BAD FOR
ASKING
THEM ON
SUCH
SHORT
NOTICE.



YOU
KNOW?

SO, I
WANTED
THEM TO GET
TOGETHER AND
HAVE SOME
FUN, JUST
LIKE OLD
TIMES!

KINDA
DRIFTED
APART
AFTER
THEY
CHANGED
CLASSES.

TAMA-
MIN AND
SUGI-
SAN...



YEAH!

SO
AKKO
...

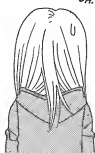
BUT
SUGI-SAN
CAN DRINK
A LOT...

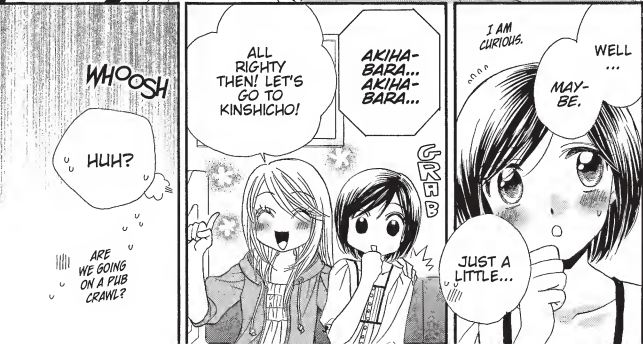
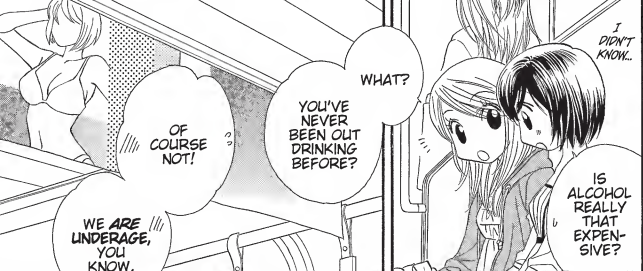
AND
TAMA-
MIN
EATS
LIKE A
HORSE.

KNEW
ABOUT
IT TOO.

UH
OH.

SINGING
CUTIE
HONEY
TOGETHER.





DON'T
WORRY,
MOM'S ON A
BUSINESS
TRIP. SHE
WON'T BE
BACK FOR
DAYS.

WON'T
WE GET IN
TROUBLE
IF YOUR
PARENTS
COME
HOME?

PHEW.

IS
YOUR
DAD
AWAY
TOO?

FIDGET

FIDGET

MY MOM
KEEPS LOTS
OF BOOZE
AROUND...

I MEAN,
LOOK AT
ALL THESE
BOTTLES!
♪

YOU
COULD
SAY
THAT.

IT'S
JUST
MOM
AND
ME
HERE.

AH!

FOUND
IT!
♡

IT'S
REALLY
YUMMY
MIXED
WITH
MILK!

HAVE
YOU
EVER
TRIED
KAHLUA?

KAHLUA



SHE
DOESN'T
HAVE
A BOY-
FRIEND...

AND
HER
DAD'S
NOT
AROUND.

THERE'S
STILL SO
MUCH...



REALLY?

I
DON'T
KNOW
ABOUT
AKKO.

CLINK ☆

KANPAI*!

K-
KANPAI...



AREN'T
YOU
GONNA
TRY IT?
IT'S
GOOD!

HOW
DO I
EVEN
DRINK
THIS?

O-
OKAY.

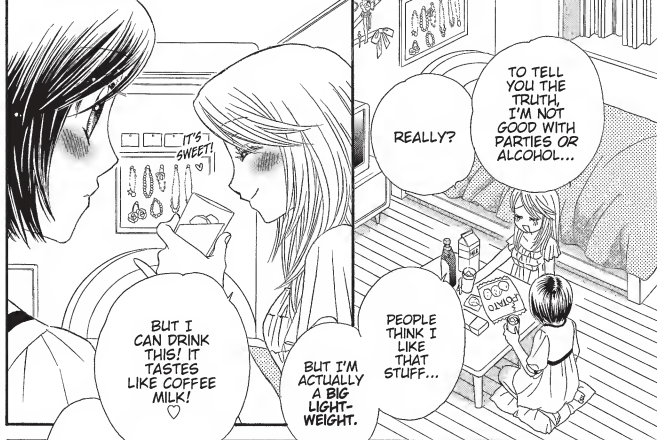
WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?

OH
NO...

BA-THUMP

BA-THUMP

*Kanpai is a Japanese toast, meaning "bottoms up/cheers."



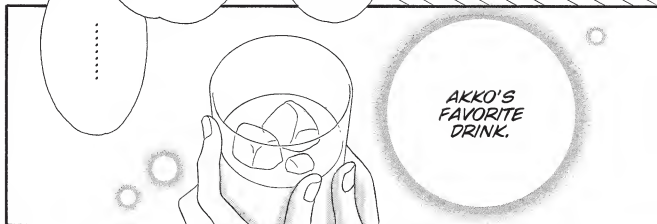
BUT I
CAN DRINK
THIS! IT
TASTES
LIKE COFFEE
MILK!

BUT I'M
ACTUALLY
A BIG
LIGHT-
WEIGHT.

REALLY?

TO TELL
YOU THE
TRUTH,
I'M NOT
GOOD WITH
PARTIES OR
ALCOHOL...

PEOPLE
THINK I
LIKE
THAT
STUFF...



AKKO'S
FAVORITE
DRINK.

...



THEN I'D
LIKE TO
KNOW...

HOW
IT...

TASTES
...

SIP

YEAH...
IT'S
GOOD.

IT DOESN'T
TASTE LIKE
ALCOHOL.
DOES IT?

SEE?
ISN'T IT
GOOD?

THE GIRLS AREN'T
FAMILIAR WITH
COFFEE LIQUOR.

RIP
RIP



AKKO'S...

YEAH...

IT'S
DELICIOUS!

FAVORITE
DRINK.

SHE
CAN'T
HOLD HER
LIQUOR
BUT LOVES
KAHLUA AND
MILK...

AND
SHE
DOESN'T
LIKE
PARTIES...

I
LEARN
NEW THINGS
ABOUT HER
ALL THE
TIME.

I'M
USED TO
IT. IT'S
BEEN
THIS WAY
SINCE
I WAS
LITTLE.

DOES
YOUR
MOTHER
GO AWAY
A LOT?
AREN'T
YOU
LONELY?

WE
TEXT
A LOT,
BUT WE
RARELY
TALK TO
EACH
OTHER.

HMM...





OH?
WHAT
DID SHE
SAY?

IS THE
PARTY
OVER?

IT'S
FROM
TAMA-
MIN.

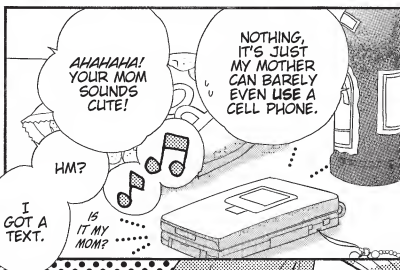
NOPE,
NOT
HER.

WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH
THAT?

YEAH.

EH?

YOUR
MOM
TEXTS
YOU?



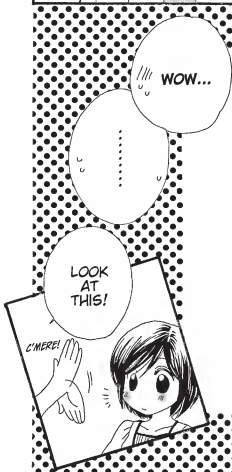
AHAHAHA!
YOUR MOM
SOUNDS
CUTE!

NOTHING,
IT'S JUST
MY MOTHER
CAN BARELY
EVEN USE A
CELL PHONE.

HM?

I
GOT A
TEXT.

IS
IT MY
MOM?



WOW...

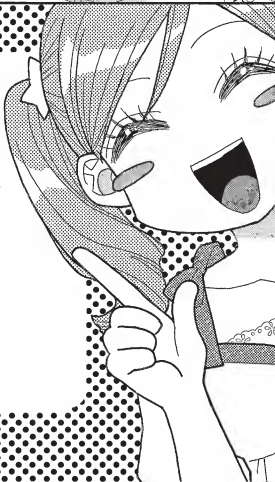
LOOK
AT
THIS!

C'MERE!

WE'RE GOING
TO ANOTHER
PARTY! ROUND
2, YEAH! ♡

IS MARI-CHAN
FEELING BETTER?
FYI, THE MORE
SUGI-SAN
DRINKS, THE
MORE SHE
STRIPS. THE
GUYS PAID FOR
EVERYTHING. ♡

IT WAS A REALLY
FUN PARTY. ☆

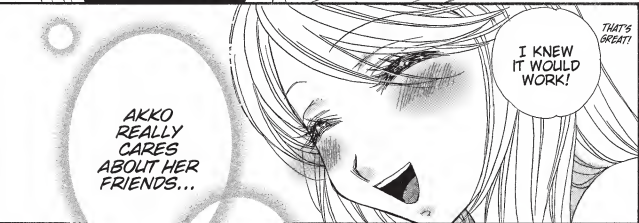




SHE
THANKED
US FOR
INVITING
THEM.
♪

AND...

I
REDIS-
COVERED
SOME-
THING.



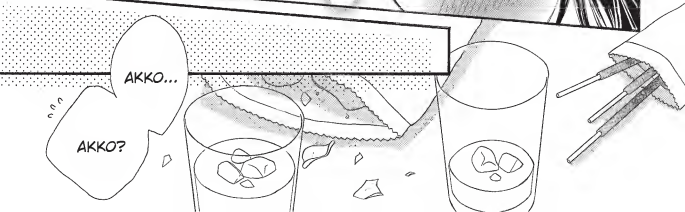
AKKO
REALLY
CARES
ABOUT HER
FRIENDS...

I KNEW
IT WOULD
WORK!

THAT'S
GREAT!

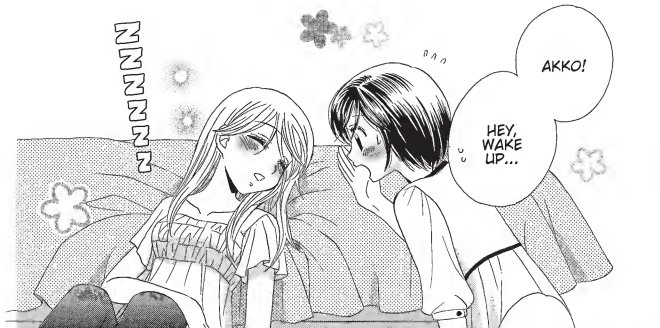


SHE'S
A KIND
PERSON.



AKKO...

AKKO?



zzz

STARE...

HEH.
♪

SHE
HAS SUCH
BEAUTIFUL
EYELASHES...

AND HER
CHEEKS
ARE SO
SOFT.
♪

POKE
POKE
♡

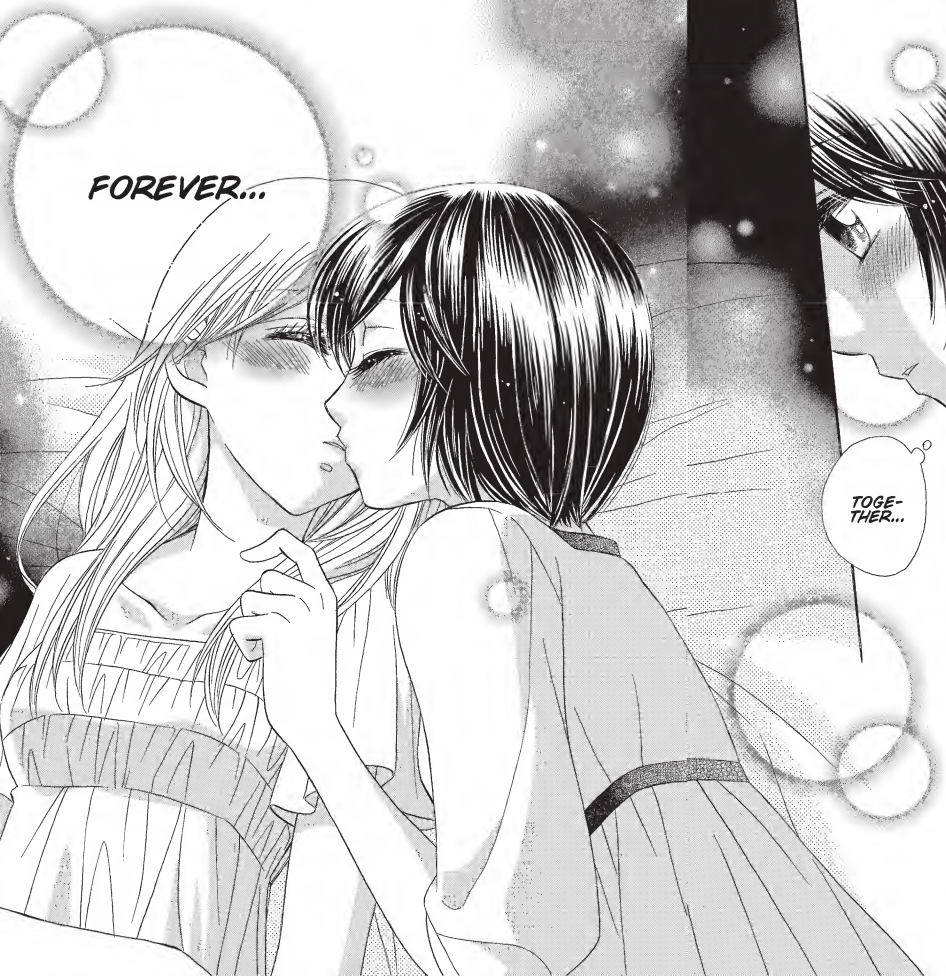
AKKO
IS...

SHE
MUST'VE
BEEN
REALLY
LONELY
AS A
CHILD.

I
WISH...

ALWAYS
ALONE
IN THIS
ROOM.

I COULD
BE WITH HER
ALWAYS.



FOREVER...

TOGETHER...

SHE
WOULDN'T
BE SO
ALONE.



HER LIPS...

SO
SOFT
AND
PINK.

IF I
STAYED
HERE...



GIRL FRIENDS — ガールフレンズ —

I MADE THIS.

LONG-
HAIRC
GIRL...
AND A
SHORT-
HAIRC
GIRL...
WEARING
UNIFORMS...

IN A
YURI
STORY...

...I
THINK
I'LL
KEEP
WRITING
THIS
KIND
OF
STORY...

I WAS
TOLD I COULD
WRITE ANYTHING I
WANTED, AS LONG
AS THE MAIN
CHARACTERS
WERE GIRLS.
SO...

THIS IS MORINAGA.
THANK YOU FOR
PURCHASING
(OR BORROWING)
GIRL FRIENDS
VOLUME III!

HAIR TOUCHING THE
SHOULDERS NEEDED TO
BE TIED UP... YOU COULD
ONLY USE BLACK HAIR
BANDS... NO PERMS...
WHITE SOCKS MUST BE
ROLLED DOWN THREE
TIMES... DURING WINTER,
BLACK STOCKINGS ARE
MANDATORY... SKIRTS
MUST BE UNDER THE
KNEES... MY SCHOOL
HAD STRICT
REGULATIONS.

EEK!
AW, HELL
NO!!

BTW,
AKKO'S
SCHOOL IS
BASED OFF
OF MY ALMA
MATER.

GREETINGS!

HOW
DO YOU
DO?

I LIKE SHARP-EYED
GIRLS WITH LONG,
STRAIGHT HAIR.

AND
UNIFORMS.

AND
SHORT
BOBS.

OR
STEALING
PE CLASS
PHOTOS
FROM THE
BULLETIN
BOARD...

AND THERE WERE
A FEW STUDENTS WHO
FELL IN LOVE WITH
THE SCHOOL IDOLS,
A COMMON SITUATION
AT AN ALL-GIRLS HIGH
SCHOOL, LIKE TRADING
NOTEBOOKS.

I TOOK
A PHOTO
WITH HER!!

KYAAA!!

DESPITE THAT, THERE WERE STILL
PRETTY GIRLS WHO FOLLOWED ALL THE RULES
AND STILL LOOKED GOOD. WE ALL WORE THE
SAME UNIFORMS, HAD SIMILAR HAIRCUTS, AND
WORE NO MAKE-UP, BUT THERE WAS A MIX
OF BEAUTY QUEENS, HANDSOME GIRLS,
ADORABLE GIRLS, AVERAGE GIRLS... IT WAS
INDEED A STRANGE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT.

THE
UNFASHIONABLE
CREW.

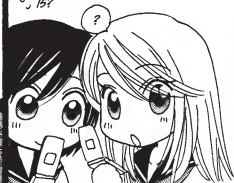
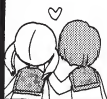
BUT THERE WERE
REAL YURI COUPLES.

DO YOU
KNOW WHAT
A "PAGER"
IS?

WE DIDN'T HAVE
CELL PHONES
IN MY DAY.

OF COURSE,
MY SCHOOL
EXPERIENCE
WAS MANY
YEARS AGO
AND THINGS
HAVE CHANGED
SINCE THEN,
SO AKKO'S
HIGH SCHOOL
LIFE IS A MIX
OF REAL AND
IMAGINARY
DETAILS.

I WAS AT THE
PEAK OF MY
OTAKU HOBBIES.



AND SO, PLEASE
BEAR WITH ME AS
I DRAW SLOWLY AND
LAZILY, RELYING ON
MY FADING MEMORIES.



THE OTHER DAY
I OVERCAME MY
EMBARRASSMENT
AND TRIED TO GO
TO MY OLD HIGH
SCHOOL TO TAKE
REFERENCE
PHOTOS, BUT
MY OLD SCHOOL
BUILDINGS HAVE
SINCE TRANS-
FORMED INTO A
SKYSCRAPER.

AND I'M
SURE THE
STAFF WON'T
LET ME TAKE
PICTURES
ANYWAY.

IT
DOESN'T
EVEN LOOK
LIKE A
SCHOOL
ANYMORE.

NEXT UP,
REALIZATION
OF "LOVE."

THIS STORY IS BASICALLY
ABOUT MARIKO'S "AWAKENING"...
BUT I'M NOT SURE HOW IT WILL
END. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME MY
BOOK WAS LABELED VOLUME 1,
SO I HOPE THERE'S A VOLUME 2.



I WILL DO MY
BEST, BUT I MIGHT
TROUBLE YOU IN
THE PROCESS...

THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME ♥♥♥ MIMI-CHAN & ATSUYO-CHAN & MAYU-SAN & FUSHIGI-TAN.

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

GIRLFRIENDS

story and art by **MILK MORINAGA** **VOLUME 1**

TRANSLATION
Anastasia Moreno

ADAPTATION
Shannon Fay

LETTERING AND RETOUCH
Jennifer Skarupa

COVER DESIGN
Nicky Lim

PROOFREADER
Katherine Bell

EDITOR
Adam Arnold

PUBLISHER
Jason DeAngelis

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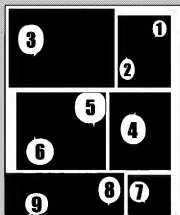
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READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from *right to left*, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but it's the way manga is read.



Where does friendship end and love begin...?

When it comes to grades, bookish high school student Kumakura Mariko is at the top of her class—but socially, she's at the bottom. Shy and introverted, she usually eats her lunch alone. Enter the charismatic and gorgeous Ohashi Akiko, whose goal is to become Mariko's new BFF and burst her out of her timid shell.

In the process of transforming “Plain Jane” Mariko into one of the cutest, most popular girls in school, deep feelings begin to emerge that suggest something more than friendship. Will these feelings destroy the budding relationship between Mariko and Akiko, or will it blossom into something else?

This collection contains the first two-and-a-half volumes of *Girl Friends*, written and illustrated by Japanese yuri icon Milk Morinaga.



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